



California GARDEN

July/August 2010

Volume 101 No. 4 \$4.00

Summer Sensations

- Plant Safari at the Zoo's Elephant Odyssey
- Sparkling New Waxflowers
- Making Community Gardens Grow

Plus: A Summer Reading Bonus – Reflections on Personal Garden Style by Pat Welsh and Five Top Designers

Garden Expressions

Featuring Selected Regional Artists

August 21 and 22, 2010

9 am – 5 pm



Helen Shafer Garcia

Grace Swanson



The Garden will be buzzing with artists of all kinds—sculptors, painters, glass artists, potters, gourd and fiber artists, and more—creating and selling their work. Pockets of music will enhance your experience along with great food.

Tom Woodham, senior editor of *Veranda Magazine*, will give two presentations:

Decorative Elements in the Garden, Saturday at 1 pm and
Entertaining—*Veranda* style, Sunday at 1 pm

Children's art activities will be offered by the California Center for the Arts, Escondido with the San Diego Botanic Garden.

Cost: Free with admission to the Garden.



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www.SDBGarden.org



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Cover: *What defines California garden style? As a peek behind this Pt. Loma garden gate reveals, it often showcase hot colors with waterwise plants. For more on personal garden style, see Pages 22-27. Photo by Rachel Cobb*

We welcome articles, photographs, drawings and ideas. Deadlines are the 10th of January, March, May, July, September and November. We do not pay for articles or artwork. We cannot guarantee the safe return of materials. *California Garden* reserves the right to edit any and all submitted material. We ask that submissions be email attachments in Microsoft Word documents, or sent to us on a CD. All opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the editors of *California Garden*. No endorsement of named products is intended, nor is criticism implied of similar products that are not mentioned.

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California GARDEN

THE MAGAZINE FOR HANDS-ON GARDENERS AND FLORAL DESIGNERS

July/August 2010, Volume 101, Number 4

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President's Letter

When this message is printed, I will have completed my second term as president of the Floral Association. What I have seen in these two years is a productive and useful organization, committed to its stated mission and increasingly involved with the larger community. I thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the long and constructive history of the San Diego Floral Association. This organization is one century with plenty of energy and remaining life!

I am very pleased to introduce our new president, Sandra Dysart. She is a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) with an MSW from San Diego State. Her work included foster care, adoption services and later medical social work with a focus on hospice and bereavement services.

Upon retiring in the mid-nineties, Sandra decided to take her own advice and "learn to smell the flowers" and to encourage others to do the same. Since then, she has enjoyed providing leadership for several organizations that increase the quality of life for San Diego citizens. She has been president of Point Loma Garden Club, the Maritime Museum's Star of India Auxiliary and Club Altura of La Jolla, and vice president of philanthropy for Gold Diggers, managing their grant program for local non-profit agencies that serve our community.

Sandra says she looks forward to once again having the opportunity to increase the quality of life of San Diego's citizens through support of San Diego Floral's mission to promote opportunities to educate, conserve and beautify our community through increased knowledge and the immediate experience of the joys of nature.

Please give Sandra a warm welcome and your full support!

Nancy Carol Carter

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Scent of Summer

Handsome basil perfumes a season, perks up gardens and flavors classic dishes

By Aenne Carver



Photo: Aenne Carver

No other herb characterizes the taste and smell of summer like basil. Heat loving, fast growing, great tasting, and good looking, what more could one herb offer? You may love basil in Italian dishes, but this herb's lore may surprise you. Besides the ordinary sweet basil that everyone grows, there are wonderful variations to try.

The word basil and basilicum are derived from the Greek word *basilikon*, meaning "royal." In Hindu burial ceremonies, a basil leaf is placed on the dead to help open the gates of heaven. In Egypt, leaves are scattered on graves, so their scent can accompany the soul into the afterlife.

Ancient Romans believed that the scent of basil inspired true love. Another ancient Roman belief was that gardeners should curse and insult basil for it to flourish. Basil's best flavor comes before it has bloomed, and gardeners hoped their harsh words would keep the plant from flowering. Cursing has been omitted from modern seed packet's instructions.

However, if you plant your basil too early, some harsh words may flow. Demand for basil begins in February, and some nurseries accommodate this clamoring without warning buyers that the plants pine away in cool weather and are prone to mold and other diseases. Basil is a tropical annual, originating from India, and requires sunny weather and warm soil. Late spring or early summer is the best time to grow basil from seeds or to purchase transplants for a quick start. Moreover, basil grows well in containers.

Each packet of seeds has information on exactly how to sow them. Remember basil prefers full sun. A few seed companies offer basil seed tape, which allows you to place the tape in any

pattern desired. These seed tapes also offer a mixture of different types of basil on a single roll. One advantage to using such tapes is the baby basil emerges perfectly spaced and thinning is not required.

However you plant your basil - seeds, tapes or transplants - remember to pinch off the flowers, because once seed sets, the plant begins to die. As you remove the edible flowers, sprinkle them over salad, spaghetti or soup.

Most gardeners are familiar with sweet basil (*Ocimum basilicum*), but there are more than a hundred different varieties of basil, each with unique flavors and growth habits. There is even a basil resistant to the dreaded fusarium wilt; it is called 'Basil Nufar Hybrid.'

Further expand your taste pleasure by looking for these uncommon basil varieties: 'Thai,' 'Cinnamon,' lemon, lime, 'Purple Ruffles,' licorice, Genova profumatissima, and 'Dark Opal.' Many seed companies offer basil varieties already blended in one seed packet, enabling experimentation without growing enough plants for all of San Diego.

One favorite basil is spicy globe, also sold under the Italian name, *Fino Verde Compatto*. This basil has leaves so tiny that you can pull them off the stem and use them whole, thereby skipping tricky chopping. Moreover, this well-behaved basil forms a petite ball shape without pruning. The taste of this basil is more concentrated than sweet basil, and slightly minty. Spicy globe basil is zesty in Italian dishes, but it might be overwhelming in pesto.

Try some new varieties of basil this year, and discover this herb's delicious appeal. By growing basil, with its long lineage of lore, you link your garden to ancient lives. Fill your dish and garden with basil, the essence of summer.

Basil Cubes

Basil is abundant in gardens and in Farmer's Markets in the summer. The problem is how to preserve this fragile herb. When basil dries, it often loses flavor and turns an unappetizing shade of brown. Pesto is delicious, but you can only use so much!

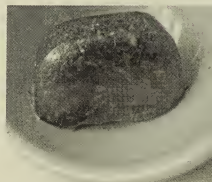


Photo: Aenne Carver

A simple way to preserve basil, or any herb, is to place fresh whole leaves into the food processor, and add water to make a slurry. Only add enough liquid to assist the grinding until all leaves are finely chopped. Then, pour the chopped herb slurry into ice cube trays. Freeze for 24 hours. Then place the basil cubes in labeled and dated plastic bags. Store in the freezer. When you need the herb in a soup, stew or sauce, just toss in a cube or two. Use within six months. —Aenne Carver

In Search of Wild Orchids

A walk yields a bounty of sightings in San Diego County

By Bruce Berg



It was a bright, warm, Saturday in early May when several members of the San Diego County Orchid Society joined the Canyoneers, a docent-led hiking program of the San Diego Natural History Museum, for a walk along a creek down Noble Canyon in East County.

The hike started among the pines of the Laguna Mountains and proceeded along the 7.5 mile-descent down to the little town of Pine Valley. Spring was in full swing and the Canyoneers were all in great spirits as they pointed out the many different

flowers and trees in bloom along the trail.

Our small orchid group, however, was interested in locating one of our local orchids known as the stream orchid, *Epipactis gigantea*. When we arrived at the place where the water was flowing freely, draining into Noble canyon from the Laguna Lakes above, we started seeing the stream orchid everywhere. All healthy looking, the plants were just opening with many spikes showing just four or five flowers. In full bloom, these spikes may carry as many as 20 or more flowers and seed capsules.

One of our members brought along a Discovery Scope that is like a jeweler's loupe with a built-in specimen holder to view the details of the blooms. We discovered that the pollen of the *Epipactis* was being eaten by some unknown insect larvae, something we would not have been able to see without the loupe.

We gave up counting plants as individual clumps held upwards of 30 or more specimens. We estimate that we saw at least a thousand plants along the half-mile of stream where the plants were growing.

These orchids can also be found along streams in other parts of the county at much lower elevations as long as the water is flowing year round and the plants can grow in a shaded area.

The rest of the hike, while not producing any more orchids for us to see, was interesting for the diversity of plants. We found several leopard lily plants (*Lilium pardalinum*) in bud. We also found poodle dog bush (*Turricula parryi*) which was blooming in abundance where the fires had cleared the habitat it likes. This mint family plant takes advantage of fire succession when fires clear away its competitive vegetation. (Warning: Don't touch this plant since it can cause a skin reaction similar to poison oak.)

Another hike, another orchid

Later in the month, the Orchid Society group joined the Canyoneers for another hike. This time we were on Palomar Mountain where the hike was an easier walk along the pine- and oak-shaded trails in Palomar Mountain State Park. On this trip, members were looking for another native wild orchid, *Corallorhiza maculata*, also known as the coral root orchid.

This orchid is interesting for the fact that it has no leaves or true roots. Instead, it has a tangled web of underground rhizomes that feed on a type of fungus that feeds on decaying leaf matter on the ground. The plant sends up a single inflorescence with several blooms per spike.

The spikes are very difficult to differentiate from broken twigs littering the ground. While walking under the giant oak trees, and keeping a sharp lookout, several plants were located and discussed with the group.

San Diego County has six different species of native orchids. When you are enjoying the beauty of the outdoors here, you may be close to where there are wild orchids. Remember, when you see these plants, that federal laws prohibit the collecting of wild orchids. There are stiff fines and even jail time associated with "orchid rustling." So just look and take lots of pictures - and enjoy being outdoors in Southern California.

Learn more about our local orchids by visiting the Society's website, www.sdorchids.com, and by visiting us at our orchid shows.

On July 24 and 25, the public is invited to attend the Orchid Society's Summer mini show and plant sale in Room 101 of Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. There is no entrance fee. Visitors can see many locally grown orchids entered for display and award judging. Local vendors will also be selling orchids and orchid planting supplies.

Visit our website for hours and other show details. There you will also find information on how to grow many varieties of orchids that will be available for sale.

- San Diego County Orchid Society member Bruce Berg and his wife Carol enjoy hiking and exploring San Diego County's many natural areas. They grow many varieties of orchids outside their Santee home.

Photo right: The coral root orchid (*Corallorhiza maculata*) can be found high in the mountains in the leaf litter below large oak trees. This plant has no leaves but instead feeds on fungus growing among the decaying leaf litter of the forest.

Photo top left: Stream orchids (*Epipactis gigantea*) always grow close to sources of running water in San Diego County. Often spotted higher elevations, this species also grows near sea level. *E. gigantea* also is known as the giant helleborine orchid due to its vague structural similarity to the herb hellebore.

Both Photos: Bruce Berg



Trees of Balboa Park: Chinese Flame Tree

The Chinese flame tree reaches a height of 40-55 feet with a broad umbrella-shaped crown. The textured bark is light tan. Leaves are twice-pinnate and up to 18 inches long with 7-12 leaflets. Each ovate leaflet is 3-5 inches long and 1½ inches wide. The leaflet edges are mostly smooth with some that vary with irregular saw-tooth (serrate) margins. The leaflet tips taper to a point. The glossy leaflets are dark green on top and a paler green beneath. There may be some scattered leaf hairs on the underside of the leaflets.

In the late summer, large yellow clusters (panicle) flowers, up to 1½ feet long, bloom at the branch tips. Each individual flower in the panicle is small. The flowers are followed by black seeds enclosed in papery, rose-colored capsules in the fall. In this species, the seed capsules are showier than the flowers. The fall foliage color is yellow, turning brown before the leaves drop.

The genus *Koelreuteria* is named after Joseph Gootlieb Koelreuter (1733-1806), a German natural history professor. The specific epithet, *bipinnata*, refers to the leaf shape.

There are many Chinese flame trees growing throughout the park including Sefton Plaza, Sixth Avenue and Laurel St., South Balboa Drive (Marston Loop), the War Memorial Building and the Miniature Railroad. Kate Sessions is credited for popularizing this tree in the Southern California landscape.

Excerpted from *Trees and Gardens of Balboa Park* (2001; \$25) and reprinted with permission from Kathy Pulplava, Paul Sirois, the City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department and Tecolote Publications.



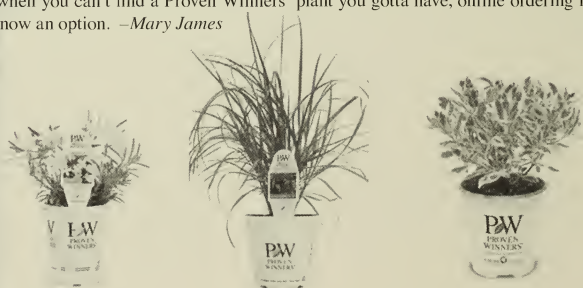
Photos: Don Walker, Courtesy of the San Diego Horticultural Society, reprinted from *Ornamental Trees of San Diego*.

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Did You Know...?

One hundred of Proven Winners' most popular plants now can be ordered online. While the national line generally is well represented in nurseries, gardeners sometimes can't find their favorite nemesia or a calibrachoa in the right shade for a container planting. So the company with roots in North County decided to make a limited number of its plants available via mail order.

The perennials, shrubs and flowering annuals selected for this new program can be viewed online at www.provenwinners.com by clicking on "shop." Generally higher than those found in nurseries, prices range from \$7.45 for annuals to \$34.95 for select shrubs. Plants are shipped 4 to a box and all are sent within five days after an order is placed. Shipping is additional, which makes it decidedly more economical to shop locally, even if you have to do a little nursery hopping. But when you can't find a Proven Winners' plant you gotta have, online ordering is now an option. —Mary James



San Diego gardeners can take their pick of fantastic ferns

By Kathie Russell

Don't wonder what color it will be. Don't wait for that perfect bloom. How? Grow ferns. Ferns have no flowers, fruits or seeds. They are just green and beautiful for our enjoyment.

San Diego area gardeners have so many options with these handsome plants. Ferns may be planted in the garden in groupings, or placed to complement other plants. Most ferns grow readily in containers and can be moved from inside the home to patio and yard areas as desired. A small fern makes a beautiful - and long-lived - table centerpiece.

Most San Diego home gardens, patios or balconies will have suitable spots for ferns. Areas under trees provide ideal fern habitats. Shadecloth may be used for patio or garden areas that receive hot sun. A drip irrigation system can assist in water management.

San Diego's mild climate gives seemingly unlimited fern garden options. Here are 10 ferns ideal for the San Diego area.

- *Rumohra adiantiformis* (Leather Fern) – Grow in your garden for beauty and as a bonus, use the fronds in floral arrangements. Plants grow taller in shade but can tolerate part sun. Need just moderate water.
- *Adiantum raddianum* and *Adiantum hispidulum* (Maidenhair ferns) - *Adiantum raddianum* is available in many cultivars, and grows well near a concrete wall or patio. Both of these die back briefly in winter. *Adiantum hispidulum* produces new pink fronds which soon turn green. Maidenhair ferns do not appreciate complete dryness, but with watering may come back again and produce new fronds.
- *Nephrolepis exaltata* 'Bostoniensis' (Boston Fern) – There are many newer cultivars which add variety to a fern collection. Some have frilly fronds; some are small (such as 'Compacta'). They grow well indoors when given good light, and outside on patios.
- *Cyrtomium falcatum* (Japanese Holly Fern) – This fern grows readily in garden beds or in a rock wall. Tolerant of low water and some sun.
- *Microlepia strigosa* (Lace Fern) – Spreads to three feet or more wide and tall. Delicate dark green fronds. Tolerant of low water and some sun.
- *Dryopteris erythrosora* (Autumn Fern) – In spring, new fronds are a striking apricot color. Winter dormant. Provide moderate water.
- *Davallia trichomanoides* (Squirrel's Foot Fern) – The rhizomes will grow under a moss-lined basket so you can see the fuzzy "feet." Provide regular water to keep basket from drying out.
- *Cyathea cooperi* (Australian Tree Fern) – Give this plant some space to grow out beautiful large fronds. It becomes tall – to 20 feet - in San Diego and gives gardens a tropical look. In coastal areas, it tolerates some sun.
- *Platycerium bifurcatum* (Staghorn Fern) – These ferns are mounted on boards with sphagnum moss, and hung in a partial



New fronds of autumn fern (*Dryopteris erythrosora*) are orange. Behind it is a staghorn fern (*Platycerium bifurcatum*).

shade location. Water should be put into the moss behind the plant, and must drain.

Look for these ferns and many others including rare and unusual species, and get expert growing advice at the San Diego Fern Show and Sale Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 21-22, in Room 101 of Casa del Prado in Balboa Park. Saturday hours are noon to 5 p.m.; Sunday hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Guests also are welcome to attend the monthly meetings of the San Diego Fern Society. Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday in Room 101 of Casa del Prado.

The San Diego Fern Society was established in 1976 to provide a resource for ferns, arrange for people to study ferns together, and encourage the use and enjoyment of ferns in gardens, patios, and the home. At its monthly meetings, there are programs on fern-related topics and horticulture. The Society also publishes a newsletter with articles on ferns and Fern Society activities.

– Kathie Russell is president of the San Diego Fern Society.

All of the books reviewed in *California Garden* are part of the San Diego Floral Association Library collection (located in Room 105, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA). Come, browse—and if you're a SDFA member—check them out!

Reviews

Cooking From the Garden, Best Recipes from Kitchen Gardener

Edited by Ruth Lively

Taunton Press

\$29.95 (Hardcover); 304 pages



If you have a vegetable garden this season, you will want to check this book out at the San Diego Floral Association lending library soon. Because if your garden is like mine used to be, all of a sudden you may have too much of something and need some ideas about how to use it or how to preserve it for latter use.

These days, since I live in a townhome with limited growing space, I don't plant many vegetables. But in the days when I was gardening on almost two acres and growing lots of our own food, it seemed that I always ended up with more of some product than I could use, preserve, or give away. I needed help in a hurry.

Cooking from the Garden, with more than 200 recipes, could be a very valuable resource for a gardener with too much of something. It is well organized and indexed in several different ways to help the reader quickly locate recipes for various vegetables, fruits and herbs. The recipes are a compilation from

a magazine published by Taunton Press from 1996 to 2001. A search of "Kitchen Garden" on the internet offers many back issues of the magazine available for \$4.95. Kitchen gardeners may want to check these out as well as the book.

My two favorite recipes from the book are Apple Tarts in Cookie Crust Tart Dough and how to preserve corn by freezing it. The unique thing about the apple tarts is that the apples are cooked in two different ways: one by cooking the apples down to make applesauce and secondly, thin slices are cooked right in the tart shells along with some of the applesauce. I'm going to try this one.

Preserving corn by freezing it seems like a recipe that I would never use, because if I had fresh corn, I would just eat it fresh, morning, noon, and night. But the interesting trick, if any of you do have too much fresh corn, is after blanching the corn for five minutes and cooling the ears in ice water, you are instructed to cut off only the top half of the kernels to eliminate the hard ends. Then with a knife blade, scrape the cob lightly to remove the milky juice and germ from the cob and include this with the kernels in a freezer bag. The book also suggests that older varieties of corn freeze better than new ones. Varieties to look for are Country Gentleman, Golden Bantam, and Silver Queen. The newer How Sweet does not freeze well.

Here is a recipe for zucchini that is not found in the book, but one I developed years ago to use surplus garden zucchini. We have this as a main dish. It is one of my husband's favorites. We hope you enjoy it. — Barbara P. Clark

Hot Zucchini Tortillas

Shred 5 or 6 medium zucchini and 1 large onion

In bowl, blend 4 large eggs with ½ cup of milk

In large skillet heat 1 1/2 tablespoons of salad oil. Add zucchini and onion mixture, 1 tablespoon each of oregano and basil. Add ¾ teaspoon salt. Stir and cook until mixture is slightly soft. Add egg mixture and continue to stir until eggs are cooked.

Remove from skillet and keep warm.

In clean skillet, heat 2 tablespoons of salad oil. Fry flour tortillas until lightly browned on both sides. Remove and pat with paper towel.

Spoon zucchini mixture onto tortillas and top with jack cheese and hot sauce to taste.

Growing Grounds

Luther Gage: Father of Carlsbad's Flower Fields

By John Blocker

Today, the Flower Fields along I-5 in Carlsbad are a tourist attraction as well as a working ranch. More than 150,000 visitors come each year to experience close-up the dramatic colors of the ranunculus flowers grown in these fields.

These fields have been in cultivation for more than 80 years and, along with other bulb-growing grounds in North County, have been a lure for visitors for almost as long.

In April 1933, Harold Finley of the *Los Angeles Times* suggested to his readers that instead of visiting a local flower show they should drive to Carlsbad and its neighboring cities to "...enjoy the unprogrammed outdoor showings of the commercial growers.

"The south coast area of San Diego County, taking in Carlsbad, Encinitas and South Coast Park, with Vista, a few miles back, thrown in for good measure, affords a gorgeous spectacle for the motorist, a spectacle amply justifying a trip expenditure for gasoline and one for which there is no 'gate' fee. Here where the air is tempered by a bit of moisture and an agreeable coolness from the sea, are the main bulb fields of the Southland's great and growing floral industry."

The first ranunculus grower and the most prominent early hybridizer in the Carlsbad area was Luther Gage. He was responsible for breeding the brilliant colors into the flowers that visitors see at the Flower Fields today.

"One can get the whole picture at ... one establishment in Carlsbad - that of the veteran Southern California plantsman, Luther Gage," Finley continued in his newspaper article. "Mr. Gage grows everything the others grow and grows it superlatively.... Picture oriental rugs, veritable Persians for colorings, that are acres in extent - all laid down on a gigantic field of green."

By the 1930s, commercial bulb growing in Carlsbad had established itself as a business. R. A. Casad and Sons produced freesia bulbs for the American Bulb Company for sale on the national market. The Elder family grew large tracts of freesias. Altman Floral grew the blooms for the cut flower trade. Alois Frey moved his bulb growing enterprise to Carlsbad from the San Fernando Valley where it had been a roadside attraction.

In July 1932, Lee Shippy reported in the *Los Angeles Times* that almost every other house in Carlsbad had a yard or half acre where bulbs were being raised for market. By 1934, approximately 15 million bulbs were shipped from the area, and Carlsbad had become the world's leading center for freesia bulb production.

Luther Gage moved to Carlsbad after the South Coast Land Company, managed by Ed Fletcher, brought water to Carlsbad from the San Luis Rey River in 1921. The company, owned by Henry Huntington, William G. Kerckhoff and C. A. Canfield, had bought large tracts of land in the Carlsbad area during the previous seven years.

Gage began growing bulbs on a five-acre plot at Tamarack and Fourth (now Jefferson) and branched out to grow on other fields. He initially sold the flowers on the Los Angeles Wholesale



Photo: Rachel Gage

Flower Market. Flocks of owls – *tecolote* in Spanish – swooped across his fields, causing him to refer to his fields as Tecolote Gardens and to patent his bulbs under the Tecolote label.

Around 1923, Gage began to gather the best available ranunculus seed from around the world. He obtained a superior strain of ranunculus improved by a French scientist. He then acquired the Eggleston strain from Australia and the Ballange strain from Austria. Crossing these varieties, then removing the worst and re-crossing the best, he created a superb hybrid.

His breeding changed the ranunculus from a more or less single or semi-double white or pale-colored bloom to a brilliantly tinted, very double flower. He also increased the size of the bloom from the size of a silver dollar to the size of a camellia flower.

Gage was also known for his “baby glads,” which he also sold under his Tecolote label. He crossed two varieties of “baby glads” from the San Francisco District, a white variety called ‘Bride’ and another named ‘Peachblossom,’ with a South African species, *G. ramosus*, and created a relatively disease-free cultivar in an array of 50 colors. His baby glads are one-third the size of a regular gladiolus and are early bloomers. They were highly regarded by gardeners at the time.

He also grew poppy-flowered anemones (*Anemone coronaria*). He had blue varieties from Europe’s best gardens; giant ‘Monarch De Caen’ in blues, pinks and reds; and a brilliant red ‘His Excellency’ with a black center. He grew 25 kinds of freesias ranging in color from white, lavender and pale yellow to red, orange and gold. Many of the freesias he grew had been hybridized by his neighbor, Alois Frey.

In addition, Gage grew rows of bulbs in his fields that were not big sellers. He grew corn lily (*Ixia*), harlequin flower (*Sparaxis*), flame freesia (*Tritonia*) and other lesser known varieties near his house, including a delphinium-blue *Leucocoryne* from Chile and *Ornithogalum* in oranges and yellows from South Africa. He had visions of developing them into garden favorites. He gained a reputation as a man who was always trying something.

By 1934, he no longer sold cut flowers. He sold his bulbs wholesale through the firm Armacost & Royston of Los Angeles. The firm sold to retailers not only in California but all over the United States and Europe. In the same year, Gage commented on the passersby looking at his fields: “Publicity only means a lot of visitors and as we do only a wholesale business, we have nothing to sell to visitors.”

In 1928, one of Gage’s workers, Frank Frazee, started his own bulb-growing business with his sons Earl and Edwin. Within a few years, using knowledge gained while employed by Gage and bulbs Gage hybridized, the Frazee family was growing 1,000 acres of ranunculus along Agua Hedionda Lagoon.

In 1938, the Frazees moved their ranch to the Stuart Mesa area on Camp Pendleton. They continued farming at this location until 1958 when they returned to Carlsbad to lease land along Highway 101 (now Highway 5) in the Ponto region of Carlsbad. Their brightly colored growing grounds in the springtime became known as the flower fields to travelers along the highway.

Today the Flower Fields are maintained in a joint venture between the Ecke family and Mellano and Co., both long-time flower growers in the area.

Next: *Cottony Cushion Scale and the First Bio-Control Program to Protect Citrus*



Luther Gage was born on Feb. 10, 1879, in Pueblo, Colorado. His father, Henry B. Gage, was a Presbyterian minister. The family moved to Downey, California, around 1880. Luther Gage became a nurseryman in nearby Montebello. In 1921, Gage moved to Carlsbad to grow bulbs. In 1924, he was elected president of the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce. He was an honorary member of the Carlsbad Rotary Club and a charter member and president of the Oceanside Rotary.

In 1934, he married Olive Carey, a resident of Redlands. She vacationed in Carlsbad every year with her grandmother. Their arrival every summer in the town’s smartest car was always documented in the local press.

The Gages lived in a graceful Spanish home (pictured above) that Luther built, located near Lincoln and Oak, a block from the Twin Inns. The house was said to be the hub of Carlsbad’s social activities. Today the house is surrounded by the Monterey condominium complex. Many of the condominiums are used as vacation rentals.

Luther Gage died Feb. 28, 1961, and Olive Gage died Oct. 18 of the same year.

- John Blocker worked in the agricultural industry in San Diego for 31 years.

RESOURCES:

Seekers of the Spring by Marje Howard-Jones, 1982

“The Lee Side o’ LA” by Lee Shippey, July 26, 1932, *Los Angeles Times*

“Speaking of Shows” by Harold M. Finley, April 16, 1933, *Los Angeles Times*

“The Flowers Still Bloom” by Helen W. King, February 25, 1934, *Los Angeles Times*

California Garden, April 1935

Archives of the Encinitas Historical Society



An Odyssey with Plants ... and Elephants

Botanical bounty fills the San Diego Zoo's newest exhibit

By Mary James



Aloe bubillifera

Thousands of visitors have trekked Elephant Odyssey at the San Diego Zoo since it opened last year. Clearly, the nine elephants in residence are the stars of this 7.5-acre exhibit, but the landscape that surrounds them is equally remarkable and shouldn't be ignored.

Consider the exhibit entry where visitors are aptly greeted by a forest of 46 elephant foot trees (*Nolina recurvata*, *Nolina guatemalensis*, and *Nolina stricta*). Also known as bottle palms even though they are succulents not palms, these trees reach 8 to 12 feet tall; some of their bulbous trunks swell to 10 feet in diameter. When in flower, fan-shaped clusters of flowers jut above their bunched strappy leaves that dangle like ponytails, hence another common name, the ponytail palm.

"They have always been favorites of mine," said Mike Bostwick, the Zoo's curator of horticulture. "This is the only place in the U.S. that you'll find a forest like this."

Bostwick and his crew of 31 oversaw the landscaping of the exhibit, designed not only to showcase the Zoo's elephants and provide a savanna-style habitat for them, but also to harken back to the ancestors of these animals that roamed Southern California more than 12,000 years ago.

For example, just past the elephant foot trees is the first of Elephant Odyssey's many educational exhibits, a simulated tar pit where visitors view the bones of woolly mammoths and saber-toothed cats alive in the Pleistocene Era here.

Similarly, in the nearby Relics Garden, the plants have an equally ancient lineage, Bostwick points out. Look for the thorny Osage orange (*Maclura pomifera*) and the Kentucky coffee bean (*Gymnocladus dioica*) among others in this area. Both once were eaten by large herbivores that spread the plants' seeds in their



Elephantopus argens



Encephalartos lemyranus



Metal 'willow'



Pink Mandy (*Mandiberea capularis*)



Cotyledon orbiculata var. *micrantha*



Baobob tree (*Adansonia digitata*)



Elephant foot tree (*Elephantopus*)

dung. Minus this propagation assist, these “relic plants” survive today only with human intervention.

Like most of the thousands of plants in the Odyssey landscape, these are drought-tolerant as the Zoo strives to reduce its water use for irrigation. “To use plant material that is water-wise when established and still maintain the look of the unique habitat we envisioned was a challenge,” Bostwick said, “but we were able to pull it off.”

Lion’s share of work

To facilitate construction of Elephant Odyssey, Bostwick and his team supervised the removal of some 4,600 plant specimens from what had been Hoof and Horn Mesa at the Zoo. Many, like 60-year-old olive trees, the thorny African native *Acacia albida*, and several large *Ficus*, were boxed and stored until they could be replanted in the new exhibit.

Some collections, like the 100-plus species of aloes, including those in the Central African Aloe garden, were salvaged and then all replanted in the new exhibit “while still maintaining some continuity of the collection,” Bostwick said. “As a botanical garden, it’s our mission to create these collections and look out for their well being.”

Another themed garden, the Madagascar Garden, was preserved and enlarged. Located on the east side of the dusty plain where the elephants roam, this garden is rich with rarities and some familiar finds from this island off the east coast of southern Africa. Included are the stout-trunked *Aloe plicatilis* or fan aloe, *Delonix decaryi* known as the bottle tree for the shape of its trunk, and *Moringa*, the so-called vegetable tree popular as a source of food and medicine.

Also in this garden are a variety of alluadias with serpentine gray stems thick with long thorns and tiny green leaves, 13 species of pachypodiums with their crowns of leaves and colorful flowers atop fiercely thorn-ringed bulbous trunks, and uncarinas with their fuzzy leaves and pink or yellow dark-throated flowers followed by seedpods with a mean hook at the tip.

Alluadias also can be seen snaking up the tall sides of the multilevel Elephant Management Facility. “We call this area the spiny forest,” Bostwick said, pointing out nearby plantings of crown of thorns (*Euphorbia milii*), *Aloe ferox* and other spiny-leaved aloes, and the rare prickly elephant trees (*Opercularia decaryi*) added when a dragon tree (*Dracaena draco*) died.

Bostwick and his staff also contributed to the design of the “utilitrees” that dot the elephants’ flat habitat. These metal structures that provide shade for the elephants are planted with cascading freeway acacias (*Acacia redolens*) for a natural look. New irrigation was installed in the utilitrees after five of the 25 acacias died, Bostwick said.

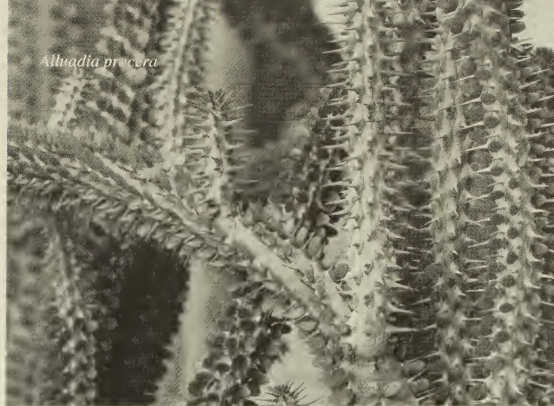
Flanking the faux-boulder “Trunk Wall” on the west side of the elephant habitat is a variety of seasonal vegetables that in the summertime include squash, sunflowers and strawberries. These are harvested and placed in breaks in the wall as a salad bar for the elephants to graze.

New Homes

When ever possible, during and after construction was completed, the stored plants were incorporated, sometimes with the help of cranes, into Elephant Odyssey. The olive trees, for example, shade a dry garden on the far northeast side of the exhibit. Under them is a variety of South African cycads (*Encephalartos*) and California native plants and grasses – all drought tolerant.

Nearby and throughout the exhibit are some trees from the

Alluadia procera



Zoo’s acacia collection, now topping 30 species. Bostwick says that a number of the acacias with their lacy leaves, moderate stature and spring flowers have captured the attention of landscape designers always on the lookout for attractive waterwise trees.

Another prized collection, coral trees (*Erythrina*), also is featured in the exhibit. “There are lots of species in South Africa and unfortunately some are becoming extinct,” said Bostwick, noting that the Zoo’s holdings are the largest collection in the U.S. and second largest in the world. “The seeds are used for jewelry and the wood for carving. And there are on-going studies on medical uses.”

In contrast to the dry savanna-like environments, a stream tumbles over rocks and logs to provide habitat for Pleistocene-Era animals still around today. This home for chorus frogs, pond turtles and skinks (agile lizards) is edged with grasses including pink muhly (*Muhlenbergia capillaries*) with its cotton-candy colored plumes.

Other habitats, near the elephant pool, house a pair of lions that snooze on heated rocks and a jaguar that roams a marsh and stream. Statues of their extinct relatives harken back to the era when saber-toothed cats and American lions lived on Earth.

The jaguar’s lair is cooled by the sprawling canopy of *Ficus nitida*. “We almost had to use dynamite to plant them,” Bostwick said in reference to the soil in this fig’s new home. Shading the lions is an *Acacia xanthophloea* or fever tree, native to South Africa where it is an iconic silhouette there. “Every time I looked at that tree,” Bostwick said, “I could picture lions sleeping under it.”

A variety of palms in this corner of Elephant Odyssey reflect the exhibit’s California and African horticultural reach. *Washingtonia filifera*, Southern California’s native palm, is on display, along with *Dypsis decaryi* and *Bismarckia nobilis*, both Madagascar natives. Other California native plants on view in this area include tall Torrey pines and California sycamores.

Of all the botanical rarities in Elephant Odyssey, one stands out, though it is hardly the most eye-catching. Most visitors probably stroll past it, observing its ramrod-straight but slightly bowed gray trunk and flattened crown of feathery foliage. If they snap pictures, it’s probably of the fleet-footed pronghorns playing nearby.

But this baobob tree (*Delonix decaryi*) native to Madagascar is probably worth \$1 million, Bostwick estimates. Approximately 70 years old, this specimen was formerly in Elephant Mesa before being moved into Elephant Odyssey. “The day we planted it here, 50 to 60 people watched,” he said. “We told the contractor making the move how much it was worth, so he worked carefully. Very carefully.”

Judy's Perennials

By Judy Wigand

Australian Jewels

Waxflowers from Down Under Sparkle in San Diego Gardens

Photo: Bob Wigand

'Vista' Waxflower

Have you heard about the latest pearls and gems from Western Australia? I'm not referring to genuine jewels but something just as exciting. There has been an amazing breakthrough in Western Australia's ornamental horticulture industry with the release of their new waxflower series (*Chamelaucium*) known as the "Pearls" and "Gems."

My quest to find out more about these treasures from "down under" took me to Joe Walker of Obra Verde Growers, a main distributor of Australian flora, located in North County's Valley Center.

More than 10 years ago, Walker was granted sole distributorship of all the new selections and breeding lines of waxflower from the government of Western Australia, Western Australia Agriculture and The University of Western Australia. These three entities worked closely with Walker on their new product line of "Pearls" and "Gems," allowing him to trial-grow them around Southern California.

After many years of testing and field growing, they have proven to be perfectly suited for a wide climate range from coastal regions to our interior deserts and have been released to the cut flower industry and retail nursery trade. All new cultivars are protected under plant breeders' rights by the government and the Department of Agriculture of Western Australia.

Both the Pearl series and the Gem series are species crosses between *Chamelaucium uncinatum* and *C. megalopetalum*. The most reliable and floriferous of the two species is *C. uncinatum*. Larger flowers are found in *C. megalopetalum* but it has a less robust growth habit. Crossing these two species resulted in a number of new cultivars with the best of both, namely larger flowers and a reliably strong growth habit.

As this breeding program developed, it became two-fold, producing a pure white series called the Pearls, such as *C.* 'Bridal Pearl,' 'Esperance Pearl,' 'Crystal Pearl' and 'Albany Pearl.' The other series, known as the Gems, offers a color range from lavender to rosy purple, namely *C.* 'Purple Gem' and 'Pastel Gem.' One of their latest hybrid crosses of these two species is 'Matilda,' a 3 to 5-foot tall shrub with flowers of white, deep pink and red.

Show in winter

There are many differences between these new lines of waxflowers and the pure species *C. uncinatum* hybrids we have grown for the last few decades. To see the difference first hand, as an example, one might compare *C. uncinatum* 'Purple Pride' with *C.* 'Purple Gem.'

Rated very highly as one of the darkest purple waxflowers available, *C. uncinatum* 'Purple Pride' has a winning reputation as one of the easiest waxflowers to cultivate in our gardens. It hosts a very billowy loose growth habit - not very compact. It also sports non-flowering shoots from the center of the stem tips, something only a cut-flower enthusiast would be concerned about.

The "Pearls" and "Gems" have no unwanted vegetative growth tip, have a more compact growth habit and produce larger flowers, making them superior flowering landscape shrubs.

Waxflowers have always been sought after in the cut-flower trade for their incredible vase life of about three weeks. But as a landscape or garden specimen, the flowers last much longer, between 60 to 75 days, when left on the shrub. Add to that their berry-like buds opening in succession and you can have an

amazing color event during the dead of winter that lasts at least three months.

One other factor to be aware of when selecting a *Chamelaucium* cross or hybrid is the particular season of bloom. There are early season selections, blooming from December to February, mid season selections blooming from March to May and late season bloomers from May thru June. It all has to do with day length and air temperature. Another difference is their overall size when mature. Some cultivars reach only two to three feet tall while others grow to six feet or taller.

Some of the pure *Chamelaucium uncinatum* hybrids many of us have grown to adore will always be some of my favorites as an easy to grow, winter-flowering landscape shrubs. Among them are a few new hybrids to the nursery trade like *C. uncinatum* 'Sweet Sixteen,' with white, pink and red flowers appearing all at the same time on a 4 to 6-foot tall shrub. Other *C. uncinatum* hybrids besides the tried and true 'Purple Pride' are the vigorous growing 'White Lady Stephanie' and 'Mullering Brook,' blooming small but profuse lavender-pink flowers from March to May.



'Sweet Sixteen' Waxflower



'Bridal Pearl' Waxflower

Growing waxflowers

The features and benefits of growing ornamental Western Australian shrubs are many. They come from a climate very similar to our own, so they are tolerant of heat and cold, enduring down to 27 degrees without severe damage. They flower mainly during winter, when little else in the garden is showing color. They are environmentally friendly plants, requiring very little water once established, similar to California natives. Additionally, they are extremely efficient in their nutrition uptake, requiring very little additional fertilizer.

The soil of Western Australia is low in nutrients; therefore if these plants were given a well balanced plant food (say 15-15-15) repeatedly over a period of time, the plant probably would be greatly harmed or killed.

The most harmful ingredient to Australian plants in a balanced fertilizer, whether organic or chemical, is phosphorus, represented by the middle on most plant-food labels.

Basically, Australian plants like a soil PH of 6 to 8. They thrive in decomposed granite soils; but if planting in clay soil is unavoidable, be sure to amend with sand, along with an application of gypsum. Mounded planting beds or hillsides are more ideal growing conditions for Australians, as they love sharp drainage.

All "Aussies" mentioned appreciate an open full-sun exposure. It's best to prune shrubs after flowering is past from summer to early fall, no later, as shrubs need time to recover and set buds before flowering resumes the following winter to spring. Cut them back one-third to half, leaving enough vegetation for the plant to recover.

A steady supply of these Australian "jewels" is now available in local nurseries through wholesale grower Craig Childs of Palomar Perennials, located in Pauma Valley.

— Judy Wigand is a lecturer and freelance garden writer. She operated Judy's Perennials, a specialty nursery, for 15 years in San Marcos.

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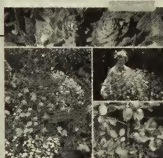
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ROOTS

Profiles in Horticultural History

By Nancy Carol Carter

Lester Rowntree

Lester Rowntree was a self-taught field botanist and photographer with a flair for writing. At midlife she embraced a completely new existence and produced *Hardy Californians: A Woman's Life with Native Plants* (1936). A second work, *Flowering Shrubs of California and Their Value to the Gardener* (1939) further secured her place in horticultural history. These books are a triumph of spirit and resolve by a woman entranced by nature.

As a child, Gertrude Ellen Lester tried to run away, dreaming of climbing aboard the colorful wagons of the traveler families camped near her Lake District home in England. After her family immigrated to the United States in 1889 and settled in Kansas, the sight of a distant Indian village ignited a desire to travel across the prairie. "I wanted very much to be alone," she later wrote, and "in a wild place if possible."

Despite her restlessness, Gertrude Lester recalled a happy early childhood with her many brothers and sisters. However, the family's move to Kansas was fraught with hardships. The Lesters eventually moved west to join other Quaker settlers in Altadena, north of Los Angeles. Gertrude loved the richness of California's wildflowers and often roamed the undisturbed countryside. Her father grew citrus and her mother capably home-schooled the children.

In her late teens, Gertrude was sent to Pennsylvania to work as a governess and to attend a Quaker school. Several cross-country train trips during her school years broadened the young woman's interest in natural history. She collected plants at stops all along the way. She graduated from Westtown School in 1902



but instead of continuing on to college, returned to Altadena to care for her ailing mother. By this time she was developing a preference for being called "Lester," in keeping with Westtown's exclusive use of student surnames.

When her mother died five years later, Lester visited England and upon returning, joined her father, who had relocated to Pennsylvania. There she again encountered Bernard Rowntree, a childhood acquaintance made in Kansas. The two married in 1908 and settled in New Jersey.

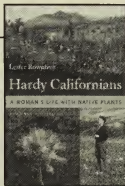
The young family welcomed a son before Lester was diagnosed with terminal ovarian cancer. Facing an early death, she asked to spend her last days amid the beautiful wildflowers of California. They moved to San Diego, joining Lester's brother and sister, then to Altadena, and

finally, in 1926, the Rowntrees settled in a new home on three acres of land in the Carmel Highlands.

Lester began to collect and study wildflowers seriously and to publish some of the 700 articles she wrote during her lifetime. As the months passed, it became quite clear that Lester Rowntree was not fatally ill. She had either been misdiagnosed or experienced a total remission of cancer. Despite this good news, her marriage was faltering. Bernard Rowntree had abandoned his New York City electrical engineering career to fulfill his wife's "dying wish" to return to California. His professional life never recovered. After 1929, the economic pressures of the Great Depression made domestic life much more difficult.

In 1931 with their only child approaching adulthood, the Rowntrees divorced. Lester was homeless and financially strapped, and she was 52 years old. Despite her frightfully insecure situation, Lester later wrote that this was the beginning of her life. All constraints on the former runaway were broken. She had never been so happy because she had never felt so free.

The next year, a combination of depression-era bartering and some earnings from her writing allowed Lester to build a hillside cottage situated between Big Sur and Carmel. This was her home for almost 50 years and it served as the base for the wandering, nomadic pursuit



Lester Rowntree

(Gertrude Ellen Lester Rowntree)

Born: 1879 in England -- Died: 1979 in California

DIG DEEPER WITH:

- "About Lester," in Rowntree, *Hardy Californians*. Berkeley: UC Press, 2006.
- Cara R. Brandt, "Lester Rowntree: Denizen of the Mountains," *Journal of the California Horticultural Society*, 14:1 (January 1955): 8-17.
- Web site of Lester B. Rowntree (grandson): www.lesrowntree.com

of wildflowers she now began. Lester Rowntree camped out and lived in her car for months at a time, traveling without an itinerary or plan. She simply followed promising trails of bright blooms, studying and photographing the flowers, compiling field notes, and collecting seed. She made friends from one end of California to the other, including a close connection with Kate Sessions. She spoke at the San Diego Floral Association and published extensively in *California Garden*.

A routine gradually emerged. Rowntree lived on her coastal hillside from November to February, then headed to the desert in March and April, moving into the foothills by May. In June, she ventured into the northern counties and by July was into the mountains, reaching the alpine zones by August and September. Most of the circuit could be made in her specially-adapted automobile, but she reached higher elevations by being packed in with a mule.

Her writing combines a natural joyfulness and candor. She reveled in witnessing the annual transformation of California into "a garden of extravagant bloom." She tells of disrobing to dance in the rain on a remote Sierra peak. Yet, she had not taken up this work for its "poetry." She wanted to find out about California wild flowers. "There was little written about them [in their natural habitats] so I made it my job to discover the facts for myself." She accepted the discomforts, hazards and disappointments of the resulting peripatetic life. Along the way she enlarged understanding of native California flora with entertaining and accessible prose.

Lester Rowntree's finances were always precarious, but she patched together a living through landscaping work, paid writing and lectures, a native plant nursery business, and the sale of the native plant seeds and specimens she collected each year. Her physical stamina barely flagged until late in life, but when she failed a driving test at age 90, her nomadic wings were clipped. She received recognition and awards during her lifetime and is remembered today for her knowledgeable celebration of native plants and her advocacy for their conservation.

In 2006, seventy years after its debut, the University of California published a new and expanded edition of *Hardy Californians*, edited and introduced by the author's grandson, another Lester Rowntree.

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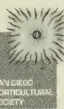
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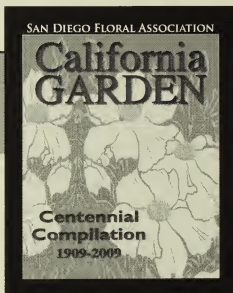


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Saving Water Starts With Some Simple Changes in Garden Care

By Vincent Lazaneo

You don't need to redesign your landscape to have a beautiful yard and use less water. How you care for plants will influence the amount of water they use. Simply adjusting a few horticultural practices will help you save both water and money. Just follow the plant-care tips described below and be a water-wise gardener.

Apply less nitrogen fertilizer.

When you give plants fertilizer containing nitrogen (the first of three numbers on a fertilizer package), they respond by producing more tissue, especially leaves. Producing a lot of new leaves is desirable when a plant is young and you want it to grow larger, but vigorous growth is usually NOT needed on a mature plant. Leaves make food for the entire plant, but they also let water escape through tiny pores. The more foliage the plant has, the more water it will use and young leaves lose water faster than mature leaves.

Giving a plant less nitrogen fertilizer will reduce the amount of new foliage it produces and this will decrease the plant's water use.

To save water, fertilize young woody plants at half the rate listed on the product label, and increase the interval between applications of fertilizer. Most mature ornamental trees and shrubs do not require any nitrogen fertilizer if they have good foliage color and density. When additional growth is desired, apply fertilizer containing nitrogen in the spring at half the recommended rate when new growth begins.

A lawn should not be fertilized if it produces a lot of clippings when you mow. You are not trying to grow a crop of hay. Only apply enough fertilizer to maintain good lawn color and density. Over fertilizing cool season turf grasses like tall fescue (Marathon) in summer when the weather is hot weakens the turf and makes it more susceptible to damage from diseases and pests.

Prune lightly or not at all.

Heavily pruning trees, shrubs and vines in summer will stimulate the growth of new shoots and foliage. The new foliage will lose water faster than mature leaves. Removing shoots from the exterior of a plant will also expose interior foliage to more sun and wind which will increase water loss.

To save water, do not prune woody plants heavily after spring growth has matured. Only remove dead or broken branches and prune healthy growth lightly if necessary. Remove shoots where they join another branch or the trunk. Do not leave a stub when shoots are removed since this will stimulate more sprouts just below the cut. If possible, delay pruning hedges until fall when days are shorter and the temperature begins to cool.

On cool season lawns increase the mowing height to, at least, two inches. The additional foliage will promote deeper rooting which will let the lawn go longer between irrigations.

Remove weeds and other unwanted plants.

Weeds and unwanted plants growing in a landscape remove precious water from the soil and compete with the more desirable plants you want to grow. Remove weeds as early as possible to conserve soil moisture and prevent seed production. Also remove weak and unwanted ornamentals so you won't waste more water on them.

Use mulch and keep it dry.

Water evaporates from the surface of wet soil after irrigation or rain. As the surface dries, more water moves upward from wet soil below. The loss of soil moisture from evaporation can be reduced by applying a 3-4 inch thick layer of medium textured bark or similar mulch on top of the soil around trees and shrubs. The mulch helps control weeds and protects the soil's surface from sun and wind.

Mulch can be applied directly on the soil or on top of a layer of weed block fabric which is more effective in controlling weeds. To maximize water savings the mulch should have a medium texture with pieces about one-inch in size. This will allow water to pass quickly through the mulch into the soil and not be retained by the mulch. Avoid using compost or other fine-textured mulch which acts like a sponge, and holds a lot of water that will soon be lost through evaporation. If sprinklers are used for irrigation, water plants thoroughly and as infrequently as possible to keep the mulch dry and optimize its water-saving potential.

Plant in the ground, not in containers.

Plants grown in containers, especially in small ones, require more frequent irrigation and use more water than the same plants grown in the ground. If you use containers, select those made with a material that insulates the soil from heat such as wood or plastic with a double-wall construction. Ceramic containers can be used if you place a plant growing in a plastic pot inside them and fill the space between the plastic and ceramic containers with an insulating material like coarse perlite. Also, group containers together so that they partially shade each other.

Limit use of pesticides with oil or soap.

The protective waxy cuticle on plant leaves is damaged when plants are sprayed with pesticides that contain petroleum products like oil or surfactants like soap. This increases water loss from foliage. To save water in landscapes, encourage natural enemies to control pests when possible, and only apply pesticides when necessary. If a horticultural oil or soap is used to control soft body insects like aphids or white flies, rinse the plant off with plain water one or two hours after treatment.

— Vincent Lazaneo is Urban Horticulture Advisor for UC Cooperative Extension. He helped found the San Diego County Master Gardener Association more than two decades ago and serves as its advisor.

Now is the time

Timely tips to
keep your plants
happy throughout
July and August

AFRICAN VIOLETS

Barbara Conrad, Carlsbad African Violet Society

- Keep room temperature for African violets between 60 and 80 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Use a camel's hair brush to gently remove dust and pet hair from leaves.
- In hot weather mist plants with very warm water and blot the centers dry.
- Inspect outer leaves for powdery mildew. Rinse leaves and rub lightly under running water then pat dry. Try to provide more air circulation to prevent another outbreak.
- Violets with long petioles are not getting enough light. They are less likely to bloom often.

BEGONIAS

Doris Smith, Alfred D. Robinson Begonia Society

- Remove dead leaves, old flowers and other debris.
- Pot rooted cuttings in light porous soil.
- Check begonias for pests and disease.
- Feed tuberous plants.
- For continued blooms, fertilize all plants.

BONSAI

Kora Dalager, San Diego Bonsai Club

- Turn trees for even sun exposure.
- Inspect bonsai and adjust watering to weather conditions. Try to water early in the morning and in the late afternoon on hot dry days.
- Pinch back junipers and deciduous trees.
- Give blooming bonsai a dose of zero nitrogen fertilizer in August to promote blooms for next year. In general, use lower nitrogen fertilizers as the year progresses.
- Watch trees for insects. Spider mites love junipers and pines.
- Treat mite infestations aggressively. Hose the foliage daily.
- July is the latest month for defoliating deciduous trees. Place the defoliated trees in the shade and water less often.

BROMELIADS

Mary Siemers, Bromeliad Study Group of Balboa Park

- Continue watering by spraying throughout the summer according to the weather conditions in your area. Be sure not to over water the potting media, as bromeliads do not like soggy roots.

- Protect plants from sunburn by keeping them under filtered sunlight. Shade cloth or any other material that will allow plenty of light to go through is effective. This helps plants develop a nice conformation and bright color.
- To keep snails and slugs away, remove all debris from the plant area, and spread wood ashes around it.
- Bromeliads are prolific plants, and their color inflorescences will last for several weeks or months. New plants can easily be made to add to your collection.

CACTUS and SUCCULENTS

Don and Laura Starr, The Grateful Shed

- Most plants are in their growing season but winter growers like aconiums will curl up unless watered.
- Many people believe that succulents are desert plants and need full sun. This is true for cacti but not for succulents. Succulents tolerate and sometimes prefer light shade, especially in inland gardens.
- Black nursery pots greatly increase the temperature of the soil surrounding the roots. The smaller and darker the container, the more water will be needed.
- Protect new plants from sunburn and acclimatize to your garden conditions. Check echeverias and other large-leaf plants getting more direct summer sun for the scorch marks. Shade cloth (at least 50%) available at most hardware and big box stores can be used to protect large planting areas or containers that can't easily be moved.
- Hose off pests like aphids and mealy bugs with a strong spray of water, being careful not to overwater plants in containers. Check the sides and bottoms of pots for snails and remove them.
- Keeping all plants and containers free of weeds and debris will help thwart unwanted pests.
- Cacti, especially in containers, welcome summer weather.
- As we use more municipal water than rain, be sure to flush container plants and remove salt residue on container bottoms. Watering early in the day is best so plants can dry out and water on leaves can dry up before the sun causes burning.

CAMELLIAS

Sharon Lee, San Diego Camellia Society

- Apply in July the third and last of the three annual fertilizer applications. The easiest way to remember the dates is St. Patrick's Day, Memorial Day and July 4. Mix blood meal with cottonseed meal at a ratio of 1 part blood meal to 5 parts cottonseed. Use 1 tablespoon for a gallon-sized plant and up to 2 cups for very large in-ground plants. It is also recommended to add chelated iron at this time. Pre-mixed camellia/azalea fertilizer also can be used. Follow application rates on the container. If you missed the first application, just start feeding now.

- Keep camellias watered. While not water-hungry, camellias don't like to dry out. Regular watering is the best practice. Inconsistent watering is the primary cause of bud drop during the bloom season. Deep watering a few times throughout the year to flush accumulated salts from the Colorado River water also is recommended.
- Mulch plants to conserve water and keep roots moist. Camellias have shallow root systems, and mulching helps keep them moist. It is critical, however, to keep the mulch 2 or so inches away from the trunk.
- Be on the lookout for insects. Hose off aphids. Check with the Master Gardener hotline or a local nursery for organic solutions to other insects. Camellias generally do not have many insect problems.

DAHLIAS

Dave Tooley, San Diego Dahlia Society

- Cut old blossoms back to the first leaves of the main stalk to prolong blooming.
- Disbud to encourage better blooms.
- Use a loop for each cane to tie canes and prevent plants from breaking.
- Continue to water regularly.
- Spray for insects and mildew; control snails and slugs.
- Feed with a 5-10-10 fertilizer.
- Place cut blooms immediately in water. Cut only in the late afternoon or early morning.

EPIPHYLLUMS

Phil Peck, San Diego Epiphyllum Society

- Repot plants that show signs of needing new potting mix.
- Start new plants from cuttings during the warm weather to establish new growth for the growing season.
- Plants need filtered sunlight and good air movement. Keep out of direct summer sun.
- Remove spent blooms and unwanted "apples" to conserve the plant's vitality.
- Water hybrids during the hot summer months. Spray or mist occasionally. Do not allow soil to dry out.
- Continue pest and disease prevention regimes. Use "summer" horticultural oils for scale. Bait for slugs and snails.
- Fertilize regularly for new growth.

FERNS

Bob Halley, San Diego Fern Society

- Most ferns are in full growth now. Water frequently to keep up the humidity.
- Keep removing old fronds.
- Fertilize with slow release pellets or half-strength, high-nitrogen liquid fertilizer.
- Spread bait as needed for snails and slugs. Spray for aphids, thrips and scale. Treat for giant whiteflies by wiping off egg spirals.
- Collect and sow spores.
- Protect your plants from the hot sun.

FRUIT TREES AND VINES

**Vincent Lazaneo, Urban Horticulture Advisor,
UC Cooperative Extension**

- Monitor soil moisture within the root zone and irrigate when soil begins to dry at a depth of 3 to 4 inches.
- Periodically apply enough water to leach salts below the plant roots (2-3 feet deep).
- Support limbs that have a heavy fruit load.
- Begin harvesting fruit as soon as it begins to ripen.
- Remove all fruit that is damaged or on the ground to discourage green fruit beetles and other scavengers.
- Prune out shoots killed by fire blight on pear, apple, quince and loquat. If possible make cuts at least 12 inches below the infected tissue. Disinfect pruning shears between cuts.
- Keep ants off trees. Wrap a strip of heavy paper around the trunk and apply a sticky barrier like Tanglefoot.
- Periodically wash foliage with a forceful spray of water to promote biological control of spider mites, aphids, whiteflies, scale and other insects.
- Inspect new leaves for signs of zinc and iron deficiency (yellowing between the veins). Apply micronutrient spray if needed.
- Prune out blackberry and raspberry canes that have borne fruit.
- Watch for Diaprepes root weevil damage on citrus and other woody plants. To see photos of the pest and damage visit: www.cdffa.ca.gov and enter "Diaprepes" in the search box.

HERBS

John Noble, Coastal Sage Gardening

- Deep water basil, mint, Yerba mansa, Gota kola, horsetail, comfrey and other water-loving plants. Do not overwater drought tolerant herbs such as rosemary, lavender, sage, thyme and aloe.
- Fertilize and mulch the garden.
- Dry bundles of oregano, thyme, sage, lemongrass, lemon balm, raspberry leaf, feverfew, bay leaf, chamomile and stevia.
- Prepare the garden for a September planting.

IRIS

Leon Vogel, San Diego/Imperial Counties Iris Society

- Refresh iris beds. Dig over-crowded clumps. Divide and share rhizomes with friends.
- Add amenities such as fertilizer, peat moss, compost, gypsum and new topsoil to the beds. Rototill the soil well and allow the bed to stand for a week if possible before replanting.
- Iris can remain out of the ground three weeks or more before replanting.
- Plant rhizomes with the top quarter showing above the soil line; they like to "breathe." Trim the roots back to one-half inch. They send out new roots within a few weeks.
- New beds need plenty of water.
- Irises are heavy feeders. Fertilize at least three times a year. Foliar-feed in between if you like.

NATIVE PLANTS

John Noble, Costal Sage Gardening

- Allow natives to go into summer dormancy.
- Many established natives need little or no summer water but most are happier being watered once or twice a month. Spray the landscape by hose. It mimics a summer storm and washes the leaves clean. Do not put drip systems directly at the base of the plants.
- Prune shrub overgrowth from pathways.
- Reduce fire risk. Remove dead wood on perennials, shrubs or trees such as toyon, lemonade berry, sumac and oak. Cut down or compost dead annuals and grasses.
- Lightly mulch all bare soil areas.

ORCHIDS

Christopher Croom

- Protect orchids from sunburn. Protect more sensitive cloud forest orchids from heat and dryness by watering more often and providing more shade. Consider watering in the early evening when nighttime temperatures are above 65 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Plants are in active growth now. Continue watering and fertilizing steadily.
- Add more moss to mounted plants that show signs of dehydration such as wrinkled yellow leaves.
- Protect orchids from scale, aphids, cottony mealy bugs, spider mites, and other sucking insects by using an insecticidal soap or pesticide.

PELARGONIUMS

Jim Zemcik

- Avoid unnecessary pruning but continue to remove dead, old or damaged leaves. Watch for geranium rust in high humidity areas and treat appropriately. Deadhead as soon as blooms pass their peak.
- Do not let plants dry out. Water in the early morning or early evening for the best results. Some plants such as Martha Washington (Regal) geraniums will quit blooming if allowed to become too dry. Avoid getting foliage wet.
- Use a good commercial fertilizer at two-week intervals. Use at one-third to one-half of the label recommendation.
- Budworms can become a problem. Use a systemic insecticide for best results. Those using a bio product such as *B. thuringiensis* should spray every seven days. If not controlled, budworms will eventually bore into plant stems, which can lead to various rots, fungi and viral destruction. Follow manufacturers' recommendations and maintain a steady, continuous prevention schedule.
- Protect plants from severe sun damage.
- Rotate plants to keep them well-shaped and covered with blooms.

PLUMARIAS

Frank Zotter, Southern California Plumeria Society

- Plant cuttings that have calloused over for at least three weeks. Use quick draining soil such as cactus mix. Water well once, then do not water or feed until leaves are about one inch long.
- Fertilize growing plants once a month with low nitrogen, high phosphorous fertilizer, using one tablespoon per gallon pot.
- When no moisture is present on the top two inches of a container, water until it runs out the bottom. Use no under dish.
- Place nylon netting or stocking over seed pods to capture seeds when pods open.
- Place in full sun.

ROSES

Roger English, San Diego Rose Society

- Be sure to water at least three times a week, more often if temperatures exceed 84 degrees. In very hot weather, roses can lose water faster from the leaves than they are able to draw it up from the roots. This can cause wilting.
- Deadhead summer blooms. Prune roses at an outward facing five-leaf leaflet. Cut the stem far enough down the bush to support the next rose.
- In hot weather roses consume food faster. In extremely hot weather growth is slowed down considerably and less food is needed. Follow the package directions when applying fertilizer.

VEGETABLES

Vincent Lazaneo, Urban Horticulture Advisor,
UC Cooperative Extension

- Make last planting of warm-season vegetables (tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, corn, beans and summer squash) in July for fall harvest.
- Plant seed of cole crops (cabbage, broccoli and cauliflower) in August for winter harvest.
- Cover seed with floating row covers to protect young plants from insects.
- Withhold water from rhubarb and artichoke and allow plants to go dormant until fall.
- Control corn earworm. Apply Carbaryl (Sevin) or BT when silk first emerges, then every three days until silk turns brown.
- Learn more about vegetable gardening at <http://vric.ucdavis.edu>.

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Passion and Practicality

Finding Personal Garden Style is a Labor of Love

By Pat Welsh

The ideal garden is a place in which nature can revel within an artistically arranged design. Every garden can benefit from having a few formal aspects or well-defined boundaries—a few straight lines, a spiral or a square, a triangle, or a circle. Vita Sackville West once said that above all she wanted her garden to have the greatest degree of formal design combined with the greatest degree of informality of planting. Geometric shapes with straight or curved lines are clean and cheerful, but their sharp edges need to be softened, and the juxtaposition of formal shapes, elegantly arranged, and then extravagantly overgrown can take one's breath away. So when a plant in full bloom fell across the edge of a path, Vita let it lie there untouched until it had finished blooming.

During the last few thousand years, in such places as China, Egypt, Persia, South America, India, and Europe, there have been many eras when great gardens have been laid out and planted by the rich and powerful, but few times in history when, like now, almost every household boasts a small garden. Virtually every suburban home-owner today wants some kind of garden, but not everyone wishes to be involved with doing the gardening, and if one doesn't like the process, why do it? Far better to hire someone else and spend one's precious leisure time doing something one enjoys.

Gardening is a hobby for those who love it. Most things that are fun take time to learn and work to accomplish, but if one loves the process it's not work; it's play. The true gardener loves every step from the choice and cultivation of plants through their care. The very smells of moist black earth, old clay pots, and pungent leaves mean happiness.

When I was young I often felt the most intense excitement while working in the garden and thinking ahead to what my project would look like in the end. The magic ingredient that can make hard work enjoyable is the inner vision of a good result. Planting seeds wouldn't be any fun if we didn't trust that they were going to coming up, but in return for each completed task, plants repay us many times over.

The satisfying thing about gardening is that it's filled with thousands of varied and pleasing rewards. When we plant a bed or finish building a wall, the sight of the improvement we've made is ample reward. And all the tips of plant care we pick up and use pay off, some within months and others within a few days. Deadhead a clump of annuals, and they continue flowering. Cut back a wisteria twiner to two buds, and it sports a bloom. Pour a kettle of boiling water down a row of parsley seeds right after planting, and they spring up in three days. Experiences like these can turn confirmed pessimists into optimists and make gardening a passion never to be given up by those who love it as long as strength and hope remain.

Find What Makes You Happy

But before succumbing wholly to the passion of gardening, it's necessary to define one's practical needs. How does the space need to perform? And in what way might our needs change through the years?

When the family is young we might want to create an outdoor space where our children or later grandchildren can play their games of imagination, perhaps with swings and slides, a tree house, a play house, or paths for tricycles. Other times the desire is to make outdoor rooms for entertaining, a central swimming pool perhaps, with places where people can gather, with comfortable furniture, fireplaces, and barbecues.

Some folks love growing vegetables, or an orchard of deciduous or tropical fruits. Others desire a collection of plants, a sort of botanic garden. In this case it might not matter how the plants are arranged or if the paths go anywhere other than providing a way to get around and see the plant collection.

When choosing a garden style, it is well to remember that the style of the garden needs to go with the style of the house or it may seem grating and inharmonious. The style of the garden also needs to be sufficiently practical to fit one's needs. For example a garden of hard surfaces, completely planted with cacti, won't be practical for raising small children.

Beyond these two limitations, in California, any style goes. Travelers create gardens to remind themselves of beloved places; immigrants fashion gardens reminiscent of countries where they were born. There are gardens made of nothing but seashells and others of fence-to-fence topiary. On the same block you can see a blousy English garden rubbing elbows with the austere all-green Japanese scheme. A South Seas paradise threatens to consume the drought-resistant, Spanish-style succulent garden next door.

It's all a matter of what makes you happy, and the very first step in creating a garden is to discover just what that is. I know of no other place where the choices of style are so many and varied as they are here in California.

Inspiration and Satisfaction

I went on a garden tour the other day with two friends and one of them remarked to me, "I get so fed up when I hear people say 'my garden is a Provencal garden, or it's an Italian garden.' Not all gardens in Provence are good ones, and many Italian gardens are a total mess! Why can't gardeners say 'This is a California garden!'"

To some extent I agree with her, but not totally. I do agree that Californians, and Americans in general, tend to be too modest about their gardens not realizing what wonderful creations they have made. When Penelope Hobhouse was lecturing in Southern California a few years ago, she stayed with me in my house. In the course of one conversation, Penny remarked how many outstanding gardens she has seen in the United States yet the owners often say "This is an English garden." "Americans aren't yet quite sure of their garden talent," she said, "but I have seen many great gardens in America that are every bit as good as English ones."

But on the other hand, there is nothing wrong with imitating something good and worthwhile. The greatest gardens, both ancient and modern, always contain unique features you can't see anywhere else, but some very good gardens have come about



Private Garden in Surrey, England

through taking inspiration from great landscapes that embody imaginative and original ideas. The memory of a marvelous foreign locale might suggest a way to frame a view. Handsome pots from Italy or Crete can set a tone. Olive trees and lavender remind us of the South of France.

In my own garden I like to use natural materials such as bamboo and twigs cut out of the shrubbery for plant supports, but I got the idea while traveling in England and seeing the marvelous trellises that gardeners make there out of willow.

The most important ingredient is creating a place that pleases oneself. By following your own heart and not caring too much about what other people think it's quite likely you'll end up pleasing the people whose opinion really counts.

Travel has influenced the style of American gardens since the 18th century, but since the 1950s, nothing has done more than color photography and printing to spread various styles of gardening and influence public taste. By studying photographs in the best magazines and books and by going on tours one can gradually develop educated taste and see what works and what doesn't, what one likes and what one detests. One can look for ideas to adapt to one's own space, see how other gardeners have terraced banks, or put in steps and paths and what plants they have chosen.

A Philosophy Beyond Style

When people come to my garden they often say it is an English garden, but to me it's not at all like an English garden. Like my friend who went with me on the garden tour recently, I want to demure, "It's a California garden." But if I wanted to honor the source of my inspiration, I would say it was California/Mediterranean, or perhaps French, since many French home gardens are thickly planted and more relaxed than English gardens.

I try to grow only those plants well adapted to our Mediterranean climate of plentiful sunshine, winter rains, and dry summers. To survive in the basic landscape of my garden, a plant has to be willing to go dry at times and not curl up and die. One thinks of the Mediterranean gardens one sees in Spain or Italy that are usually sparsely planted with many open spaces. I have open spaces in my garden also, but the beds are thickly planted, and I don't like bare ground to show. To me, bare soil in a flowerbed is like a smile with a few missing teeth. If ever there is a patch of ground in my garden with no plant growing in it, I cover it with mulch.

Years ago, I preached mulch with such vigor that one of our TV anchor-persons suffered a slip of the lip, "And now to show us how to plant potatoes," she announced, "here comes Pat Mulch!" Today I'm beginning to temper these ideas because of concern for beneficials. I now leave some bare patches here and there in my garden because native bees need bare soil for survival.

Attention to details, such as the use of natural materials or allowing no bare ground, leads gradually to the development of an ideal or philosophy in gardening that goes beyond style. It could apply to any style or any climate just as Vita Sackville-West's ideal of formal design with informal planting could apply to any strong design having formal aspects, including many unique modern gardens.

My own ideal is to create a garden with a romantic atmosphere and then to live in it as much as possible. You could also call it a paradise garden, a "Garden of Eden." But what do I mean by romantic? Here are some of the words I found in more than one dictionary to describe romance: "imagination, love, idealization, wafting one to another time or place, excitement;" and phrases such as: "adventure of the kind found in romantic literature, a romantic quality or spirit, to be fanciful or imaginative in thinking or talking, having some aspects of an imagined, though unseen reality, adventurous, idealistic, passionate, visionary, emphasis on feeling and originality, a suitable setting for love."

I've known people who became so passionate about gardening, that it made them almost as happy as falling in love. Projecting one's own feelings onto the garden is similar to an artist projecting feelings onto a painting or a lover onto a beloved person, and in return one's own love is reflected back.

But though gardening may become an obsession, it's also very practical; it's not all ideals and design - it's mulch and it's pea stakes. How does one actually carry out the plan and turn this nebulous idea of romance in the garden and romancing the garden into concrete reality without allowing the garden to completely consume or worry us? It's meant to provide happiness, after all, not stress. And how can anyone say what is good taste and what is not? Two people might look at the same landscape and one will like it and the other won't. Good taste in garden planting and design is one of those qualities about which we say, "I can't tell you what it is, but I know it if I see it."

— Pat Welsh is an award-winning Del Mar author and lecturer. Her new book is *Pat Welsh's Southern California Organic Gardening Guide* (Chronicle Books, \$32.50). Visit her Web site, www.patwelsh.com, for a schedule of book signings and talks, as well as articles on a variety of gardening topics.

Five Designers; Five Garden Styles

The Paths They Travelled Are Unique, Universal



Photo: Linda Bresler

Linda Bresler: Moving On

My love affair with plants came about slowly. I grew up on the East Coast and was used to a lush green look with plenty of leafy plants and bright summer color. With my first home, I discovered that I loved the smell of dirt and mulch, and getting my hands dirty. It was fun to try out new plants but I did not understand what happened when they didn't always thrive. As a diversion from teaching middle-school children all day long, I began taking horticulture and landscape design courses in the evenings at a local college. After that, I was hooked!

As I developed my sense of design, I found that I preferred curves and natural looking planting beds rather than linear, stark landscape designs. I also began to discover the incredible diversity

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Photo: Linda Whitney

Linda Whitney: Designed for Healing

My new garden came to me at the perfect time. Several years ago, after a traumatic accident, I felt in deep need of physical, emotional and spiritual healing. By happy chance my family and I moved into a new house with a perfect "blank-slate" yard. Filling that slate fueled the healing process, shifted my attention from physical trauma and took me on a wonderful design journey.

There are countless books and fads about how to create a "healing garden", but looking out my kitchen window at our land told me everything I really needed to know. Our new house was built where habitat had been bulldozed, cut, scraped and compacted. What was left was concrete-hard barren ground, too

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Ryan Prange: Happy Together

To wake up every morning and truly enjoy what you do is a rare phenomenon. It's said that a very small percentage of us really enjoy our work and find fulfillment in what we do on a daily basis. In the landscape design industry, we have a surplus of people who left corporate America to pursue their passion for gardening, designing or – in recent years – growing their own food. When I hear these stories, they only serve to reaffirm my confidence that I am in a place that I will still want to be 20 years from now. I smile inside knowing that I've chosen a career others lust after.

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Photo: Ryan Prange

of textures and colors in the plants themselves. Garden beds could look beautiful year round even without colorful flowers.

When I moved to southern California 12 years ago, I discovered that landscaping here presented many new challenges, more than on the east coast. I realized rather quickly that gardening in this climate was totally different from what I knew. I went back to school and learned the plants for our climate, what they needed to succeed and how to irrigate them.

As the water situation worsened, I realized that I needed to learn more about drought-tolerant plants. I still wanted the year-round beauty that I knew was possible, even with our water restrictions. I continued even after I stopped my formal schooling, and discovered many new plants from Australia and South Africa, as well as the myriad selection of succulents that could supplement the Mediterranean and native plants that were more commonly used.

Through trial and error, I have become acquainted with a new plant palette that was not even known here a few years ago. I found that I can feed my craving for color and beauty year round in our beautiful climate. My personal style is a combination of curving, organic shapes and bright, cheerful colors. I tuck little plant surprises into corners so there is always something exciting to view. Every day of the year, something is blooming in my garden, which makes me very happy.

Your garden should make you feel both energized and relaxed. It should be a place that gives you pleasure whenever you are in it, or even just viewing it through a window. Don't plant a garden to only please your neighbors or others. You are the one who will be interacting with it on a daily, personal basis.

— Linda Bresler is a North County landscape designer specializing in drought-tolerant, low maintenance designs that provide year-round beauty. She can be reached at (858) 486-8733 or thebreslerfamily@msn.com.



Photo: Linda Whitney

Linda Whitney: Designed for Healing

hard even for weeds to grow, even after a very rainy winter. It seemed I wasn't the only one in need of healing.

Pain management class taught me that changing your frame of mind changes your perception of pain. How did this translate into garden design?

The answer came to me when I considered how I thought of myself: I am an observer, an admirer of nature, art and beauty. Works by Monet and other impressionists take my breath away. My garden had to move me the same way, using texture, line, color and form, all those things they teach you in design school. The garden had to buzz with life. It had to give back to the environment that had been plowed over; my garden had to be a wildlife habitat. It had to have a positive environmental footprint and live within its climatic bounds. That meant drought tolerant plants and no harsh chemicals.

To heal me it had to feed me. It had to have private places to escape into. The garden had to wash away attention to the negative and transport me to a place of positive energy.

I took all these requirements to the drafting table, and like a ground wasp digging deep into the soil, I kept digging for the answers. How would the layout resolve itself?

The seemingly endless days of laying out chalk lines, hoses, flags, string and tomato stakes in the quest for the perfect layout must have looked absolutely nutty to my neighbors. But I am a firm believer that the earliest planning stages are the most important, and implementing a design after it's been thoroughly worked out is indescribably rewarding.

Of course, my carefully laid plans ran headfirst into my financial constraints, calling for all the resourcefulness I could muster. But that, perhaps, is another story.

— Linda Whitney is the owner of Garden Retreat Design in Chula Vista. View her work and contact her at www.gardenretreatdesign.com.

Shellene Mueller: Past and Ever Present

Rustic rock walls, old-grove olive trees, mulch paths, a timeless appeal and a sense of place... yes, this is what's most important to me in the garden. I struggled to find my personal garden style because I am exposed to so many wonderful landscapes, and I truly love most of them. I had to look deep inside myself to discover what would bring me joy in the landscape.

I realized after I purchased my first home that I am, and have always been drawn to an Old World Mediterranean-style garden. I love the history, romance and ease of this garden style. It gives me peace and joy to stroll along a gravel path lined with lavender and sages. Maybe...if I am lucky, I will brush a small lemon-scented thyme, strategically place in the path, and be gifted with its fresh exhilarating scent.

If you haven't already surmised, the garden is a personal place for me; it must grab and engulf me the moment I arrive. I grew up in a family of designers and gardeners; it's been a part of my entire life; it's what I do and who I am.

So when finding my garden style, I looked in my heart and mind and found that my style is comprised of memories of the garden I grew up in, a garden that doesn't overwhelm the senses, but calms them; a garden that not only is made up of plants and hardscape, but that is occupied by wildlife that add tremendous value to not only the garden but my sense of place and well being. In closing I would have to say my garden style would be classified as a Mediterranean Retreat Garden designed to be enjoyed with family and good friends.

When searching for your garden style, look no further than your heart and mind, and the things that give you joy. Look to your own personal style in the home and translate that into the garden, and this will give you a starting point.

— Shellene Mueller is the owner of *Designs by Shellene* based in San Diego. View her work and contact her at www.designsbyshellene.com.



Photo: Shellene Mueller

Ryan Prange: *Happy Together*

I started out in this business at a young age – probably 4-5 years old – riding with my Dad to work in La Jolla, listening to Public Radio, barely awake at 5:30 in the morning. Our first stop was mostly like the Hotel - the La Valencia Hotel - where for the better part of three decades, my Dad put his heart and soul into making the place look picture-perfect. Every wedding that destroyed the fresh-cut grass, every cigarette butt that landed in a potted geranium, every half-empty champagne flute stashed in the bougainvillea hedge, he and I cleaned up. For 29 years (my time there slightly less) my father did his job with a smile. I watched and as the years went by, I learned that, even in the midst of unhappy hotel patrons barking orders into their phones to someone thousands of miles away, I was perfectly content to crouch in a boxwood hedge and plant what was left of my flat of petunias.

To be a garden designer in San Diego is a privilege. The possibilities are endless, the opportunities for growth are your own to determine. I get excited about plants and design, and will thoroughly annoy others at a dinner party, gabbing about the

latest hybrids from Monrovia, or the newest design book from Taschen.

I don't have a personal garden. If I did, it would probably be perpetually unfinished and haphazard in every way, quite the opposite from what I create for my clients. What ever my style is – modern, Zen, new, interesting, 'San Diego simple,' I tailor it to backyard I'm working on so the garden functions as an extension of the built environment.

I think back to my time at the hotel, watching how my dad conducted himself - calm, content, never frustrated or vitriolic. He raised me to do good work, to enjoy life and be appreciative. I take more risks than he did, but I try to stay balanced and instill that balance in each garden. As a means to an end, we all go to work each day, produce something and come home to our families. If I can do that... maybe design a few gardens, make people happy, and be half the man my dad is, then I'll be OK, ready to wake up and do it all over again.

— Ryan Prange is the founder of *Falling Waters Landscape Inc.* of Encinitas. View his work and contact him at www.fallingwatersweb.com.

Nan Sterman: Bold, Beautiful Balance

What is my garden style?

My style is hot colors, dry gardens.

I love color! And I am committed to gardening with as little water as possible, as sustainably as possible. In my garden, these ideals go hand-in-hand, so that practical + beautiful = the perfect balance.

Of course, needs come first. I couldn't, for example, live without fresh garden vegetables and herbs. Something ripens every month, all year.

My garden is a place where bees buzz, butterflies flit, and hummingbirds hum. I make places to relax (not that I ever take the time to do so), hose bibs everywhere, and a sunny spot to eat my lunch or entertain friends and family.

I treasure the fruity fragrance of grapefruit flowers, the late afternoon perfumery of *Gladiolus tristis* blooms in early spring, angel trumpet from spring into summer, and naked ladies in late summer.

My garden has been sustainable since long before sustainable gardens became popular. I'm a lifelong recycler, composter, drip irrigator (is that a noun?). I have a huge compost pile for garden clippings and three sets of worm bins for kitchen scraps. I mulch like crazy. All of my hardscape is recycled broken concrete. Few people notice that it isn't flagstone.

My style isn't frilly. I can design frilly gardens for clients, but my own style is part farm, part laboratory. I test all kinds of plants to see how they perform. If they can live with the amount of water I am willing to give them, great. If not, they don't belong. The result looks a bit wild and un-manicured – much to my husband's frustration. But the wildlife love it and so do I. Though he is reticent to admit it, my husband loves it as well!

And the color is outrageous. So many people expect a low water garden to be drab and brown. Nothing could be further from the truth. My garden blooms red, yellow, orange, green, blue,



Photo: Nan Sterman



Photo: Nan Sterman



Photo: Nan Sterman

purple, and hot pink, all year round. These saturated colors nearly glow in our hot, clear sun. Bright flowers play off leaves that are fat and icy green or pointed and purple. Some are leathery, deep green while others are needle-like bronze. Fuzzy and smooth surfaces all are at home in my garden.

Can you picture it? If not, there are images on my website at plantsoup.com.

— Nan Sterman is a horticulturist, garden designer and author. Her latest book is *Water-wise Plants for the Southwest* co-authored with Mary Irish, Judith Phillips, and Joe Lamp'l (Cool Springs Press, \$19.95).

A Garden Conversation: Judy Jacoby

When she lived in Boston years ago, Judy Jacoby began a life-long interest in community gardens. Seeing the role these cultivated plots played in the life of an urban park as well as the city it served has guided her volunteer efforts since her retirement from a career in public health. A Master Gardener who tends her own edible landscape, Jacoby has spearheaded Master Gardener efforts to aid community gardens here. Now she is one of the leaders of a new community garden coalition striving to reduce red-tape and thus encourage more community gardens throughout the county.

In a conversation with *California Garden*, Jacoby shares the seeds of her passion for horticulture, the contributions of community gardens to America's Finest City and urgent need for public policy changes if community gardens are to thrive.

1. What are the roots of your interest in horticulture? How have you pursued this passion over the years?

My interest in gardening and nature goes way back to a time before I could articulate it. I grew up in numerous rental apartments in various parts of New York City. When I think of these, I remember the green spaces near some and the barrenness of others. I remember the soft touch of the pussy willows and the brilliance of the forsythia blooming during spring in the small back yard of an apartment in Rockaway Beach. Later there were the nooks and crannies of Central Park to explore, a summer job as a children's nature tour guide and ecology studies at Cornell the summer after my junior year.

While living in Boston, I was enamored with the row upon curving row of community garden plots in the Fenway neighborhood. This is what a public park should look like, I thought, alive with people working, playing and creating sustenance and beauty in a public setting. The extensive public use of open space for strolling, sport, lounging and, yes, gardening reflects back to the colonial habit of building the village up around the "commons" to foster a sense of community that newer cities like ours lack. Here in San Diego, in our rush to catch up and make a mark, the private

takes precedence. We are overly concerned with who might sit on a park bench if we create public spaces and rarely disturbed by the superficiality of our relationship to community. Stadiums are more important than libraries, recreational opportunities and the well being of the community.

2. Have you personally gardened in a community garden? What was your experience there?

My first experience with community gardens was the plot I had at the Bethesda Naval Hospital while I was working at the National Institutes of Health. It was also my first experience with planting and growing food crops. I loved how I could walk to the park-like setting of the community garden and when I didn't know what I was doing, find a fellow gardener I could ask for help. I was more determined than ever to grow fresh food since I had recently returned from Europe where I live on Crete and in rural England surrounded by vibrant agricultural communities and had learned what real food tasted like.

3. What sparked your interest in community gardens in San Diego?

When I retired from the Public Health Service and my stint as a nurse practitioner in community clinics, I was able to pursue my horticultural interests more thoroughly. I attended horticultural classes at Cuyamaca College, tended my own vegetable and native plant garden and joined the Master Gardeners where I became a school garden consultant in our well developed MG school garden program. Over time, I noticed the relatively small number of community gardens in San Diego and the lack of a structure for supporting new and established ones. With this realization and persistent urging from Master Gardener friends, I decided to start a community garden committee to begin a process to provide support for new and existing gardens and possibly team up with school gardens to create a network of sustainable gardens in San Diego County.

Hamilton Elementary School's canyon cleanup and planting day.



Photo: Judy Jacoby

Grand opening of New Roots Community Farm in City Heights in 2009.



Photo: Judy Jacoby

4. Describe a modern community garden – where do they tend to be located, who uses them and what are the benefits?

In San Diego County, a few community gardens are located on parkland, on school property or in apartment complexes. Most of the rest are on previously vacant public, private and church property. New ones are being developed on local college campuses and university property. In short, community gardens can be found wherever land is available, where a group has mobilized and organized to start a garden and where local governments have not set up barriers such as restrictive zoning and prohibitively expensive permitting.

5. What is the status of community gardens in San Diego County? Are they recent additions to our horticultural community or is there a long history here?

There are currently between 25 and 30 gardens in the county depending on how stringent a definition is used. Some have been active for more than 20 years while a few gardens have been lost. Most recently, the Edgemoore Garden in Santee closed because they lost their lease and the land is slated for development. Gardens in other cities have many similarities to ours but often have the advantage of having nonprofits and local government agencies as advocates. In California, most of the larger cities have community gardens that are run by the Parks Department with additional support from nonprofit organizations.

6. Recently community gardens around the country have formed a coalition. What do they hope to achieve?

Two separate groups have formed in San Diego to assist community gardens. The first is a food advocacy group, One in Ten. It is seeking to change the community garden permitting process in the City of San Diego from a neighborhood use permit that requires an extensive review process, a \$5,000 deposit and a final cost determined by hourly billing from Development Services to a simple ministerial permit. Please support the efforts to change the permitting process by signing our online petition at <http://www.petitiononline.com>.

The other group is the newly formed Community Garden Network that seeks to support new and existing community gardens by supplying technical advice, resources and organizational support. This group is the outgrowth of work done by the Master Gardener Community Garden Committee and will exist independently of the Master Gardeners but with their continued support.

7. Describe some necessary changes needed to spur the creation of more community gardens.

The main impediment to community gardens here is public policy. I urge everyone to write their local officials asking them to promote policies that support community gardens. Some cities, including Escondido, Oceanside and Carlsbad, sponsor community gardens. The majority of the Encinitas City Council does not support community gardens on public land. The City of San Diego's permitting and zoning regulations as they currently stand make the creation of legal gardens difficult and extremely

expensive at best. While the majority of the San Diego City Council says they support gardens, they will not take the lead in pushing for change. They want local planning groups to voice their support for simplifying the permitting process before putting the issue up for a vote. We also have been told that efforts to change community garden zoning restrictions will take years to accomplish.

8. How would you go about starting a community garden?

If you want to start a community garden contact us at plantsandiego@gmail.com or go to www.mastergardenerssandiego.org and click on community gardens, review our resources and complete the survey on your interest in community gardens. We will be happy to point you in the right direction and hopefully you will join in the efforts of the Community Garden Network and One in Ten.

9. Interest in vegetable gardening seems to ebb and flow. Do you think interest in and the need for community gardens will flourish in the years ahead?

While it is true interest in vegetable gardening ebbs and flows over time, it never disappears. Community and school gardens have existed since the 1890s, gaining and losing momentum in response to national priorities. Currently there is unprecedented interest in both growing food and in knowing more about our food supply. It is estimated that there were 4 million new gardeners in 2009. The community garden and urban farming movements are flourishing in numerous cities around the nation. Vegetable gardens are on the White House lawn, the National Mall and the Governor's residence in Sacramento. Numerous federal agencies now have their eyes on gardening.

There are so many compelling reasons for developing a new awareness of the importance of food in our lives that it is unlikely this trend will quietly fade away. Consider the current issues related to food: the obesity epidemic, outbreaks of food-borne illnesses related to industrial farming; the lack of fresh food sources in the cores of urban areas and the rise of food-insecurity, fears and concerns about adequate food supplies. Plus food policy issues are closely entwined with concerns about climate change, alternative energy and sustainable growth.

If none of this impresses you, just get out there and garden. Experience the pleasure of working the soil, seeing your garden flourish and eating freshly picked food you grew with your own hands. In the end, if for no other reason, people will continue to garden for the love of it and community gardens will survive because they provide a gardening opportunity for those without access to land.



The Juniper Front Courtyard, Banker's Hill

SDFA Calendar

A listing of the best gardening-related activities in the county for July and August 2010

July Events

JULY 3

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY

When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Ecke Building, San Diego Botanic Garden,
230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas
More information: 858-566-0503

JULY 6

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park,
San Diego
More information: sdorchids.com

JULY 7

PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY MEETING

When: Culture Class 6:30 p.m.,
General Meeting 7:00 p.m.
Where: Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St.,
Carlsbad
More information: www.palomarorchid.org

SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB MEETING

When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park,
San Diego
More information: www.thesandiegoherbclub.com

JULY 10

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY MEETING

When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park,
San Diego
More information: www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING

When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park,
San Diego
More information: sdcss.net

JULY 11

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING

Join us to hear a discussion by Ted Matson.
When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park,
San Diego
More information: www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY MEETING

When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: War Memorial Building, Balboa Park,
San Diego
More information: www.socalplumeriasociety.com

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY MEETING

When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: War Memorial Building, Balboa Park,
San Diego
More information: www.socalplumeriasociety.com

JULY 12

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING

Author and photojournalist Debra Lee Baldwin will discuss designing succulent containers.
When: 6:30 p.m.
Where: Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds,
Del Mar
More information: www.sdhortsoc.org

JULY 13

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK MEETING

When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park,
San Diego
More information: 619-479-5500; www3.adnc.com/~lynd/brominfo.html

TEMECULA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Temecula Community Rec. Center, 30875
Rancho Vista Rd., Temecula
More information: www.temeculavalleygardenclub.org

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY MEETING

When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park,
San Diego
More information: 858-472-0540;
www.sidgeeranium.org

JULY 14

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB MEETING

When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal,
San Diego
More information: www.plgc.org

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Lake Poway Pavilion, 14611 Lake Poway Rd.,
Poway
More information: www.powayvalleygardenclub.org

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB MEETING

When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Ramona Women's Club, 524 Main Street,
Ramona
More information: www.ramonagardenclub.com

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY MEETING

When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park,
San Diego
More information: www.epiphyllum.com

JULY 15

BERNARDO GARDENERS

Members mystery field trip
When: 9:15 a.m.
Where: Carpool from the Ed Brown Senior Center
(formerly Joslyn Center) parking lot, 18402 W.
Bernardo Dr., San Diego
More information: 858-672-2454; www.bernardogardeners.org

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY MEETING

When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park,
San Diego
More information: www.sdfern.com

JULY 17

CARLSBAD GARDEN CLUB FIELD TRIP

Discovery field trip to Alta Vista Botanical Gardens,
Vista
Where: Carlsbad City Library, 1775 Dove Lane,
Carlsbad
More information: www.carlsbadgardenclub.com

JULY 20

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB MEETING

When: 1:30 p.m.
Where: La Jolla Lutheran Church, 7117 La Jolla Blvd.,
La Jolla
More information: Jody Peterson, 858-729-0711

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB MEETING

When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: 1077 Vista Madera, El Cajon
More information: Connie Beck, 619-749-4059

CALIFORNIA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER MEETING

When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101 or 104 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park,
San Diego
More information: www.cnpsd.org

JULY 22

CROWN GARDEN CLUB MEETING

When: 9:00 a.m. social, 9:30 a.m. meeting
Where: The Winn Room, Coronado Library, 6400
Orange Ave., Coronado
More information: www.crowngardenclub.org

JULY 24

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING

When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Joslyn Senior Center, 724 N. Broadway, Escondido
More information: 760-741-7553

JULY 27

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB MEETING

When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: St. Dunstan's, 6556 Park Ridge Rd., San Carlos
More information: 619-448-3613

SAN DIEGO COUNTY DAHLIA SOCIETY MEETING

When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-672-2593

JULY 28

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB MEETING

When: 6:00 p.m.
Where: United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw St., San Diego
More information: www.missionhillsgardenclub.org

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB

When: Social 9:30 a.m., Meeting 10:00 a.m.
Where: 1105 Santa Madera Ct., Solana Beach
More information: sdgc.klm@micro.com

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Join us for our mangoes and ice cream social.
When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.crfgsandiego.org

August Events

AUGUST 1

HON NON BO ASSOCIATION MEETING

When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Room 104 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-689-0957

AUGUST 3

SAN DIEGO COUNTY ORCHID SOCIETY

When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: sdorchids.com

AUGUST 4

SAN DIEGO HERB CLUB MEETING

When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.thesandiegoherbclub.com

AUGUST 7

PALOMAR ORCHID SOCIETY

Annual orchid auction
When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Carlsbad Woman's Club, 3320 Monroe St., Carlsbad
More information: www.palomarorchid.org

SOUTHWEST HEMEROCALLIS SOCIETY

When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Ecke Building, San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Dr., Encinitas
More information: 858-566-0503

AUGUST 8

SAN DIEGO BONSAI CLUB MEETING

Jim Grimmel will address the group.
When: 10:30 a.m.
Where: Room 104 Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.sandiegobonsaiclub.com

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA PLUMERIA SOCIETY MEETING

When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: War Memorial Building, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.socalplumeriasociety.com

AUGUST 9

SAN DIEGO HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING

When: 6:30 p.m.
Where: Surfside Race Place, Del Mar Fairgrounds, Del Mar
More information: www.sdlhortsoc.org

AUGUST 10

BROMELIAD STUDY GROUP OF BALBOA PARK MEETING

When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 619-479-5500

SAN DIEGO GERANIUM SOCIETY MEETING

When: 7:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: 858-472-0540,
www.sdgeranium.org

TEMECULA VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Temecula Community Rec. Center, 30875 Rancho Vista Rd., Temecula
More information: www.temeculavalleygardenclub.org

AUGUST 11

POINT LOMA GARDEN CLUB MEETING

When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Portuguese Hall, 2818 Avenida de Portugal, San Diego
More information: www.plgc.org

POWAY VALLEY GARDEN CLUB MEETING

When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: Lake Poway Pavilion, 14611 Lake Poway Rd., Poway
More information: www.powayvalleygardenclub.org

RAMONA GARDEN CLUB MEETING

When: 12:00 Noon
Where: Ramona Women's Club, 524 Main Street, Ramona
More information: www.ramonagardenclub.com

SAN DIEGO EPIPHYLLUM SOCIETY MEETING

When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.epiphyllum.com

AUGUST 14

SAN DIEGO BROMELIAD SOCIETY MEETING

When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: Room 104, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.bsi.org/webpages/san_diego.html

SAN DIEGO CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING

When: 1:00 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: sdcss.net

AUGUST 17

LA JOLLA GARDEN CLUB MEETING

When: 1:30 p.m.
Where: La Jolla Lutheran Church, 7117 La Jolla Blvd., La Jolla
More information: Jody Peterson, 858-729-0711

RANCHO SAN DIEGO GARDEN CLUB MEETING

When: 10:00 a.m.
Where: 1077 Vista Madera, El Cajon
More information: Connie Beck, 619-749-4059

AUGUST 19

SAN DIEGO FERN SOCIETY MEETING

When: 7:30 p.m.
Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego
More information: www.sdfjern.com

AUGUST 25

MISSION HILLS GARDEN CLUB MEETING

When: 6:00 p.m.
Where: United Church of Christ, 4070 Jackdaw St., San Diego
More information: www.missionhillsgardenclub.org

SAN CARLOS GARDEN CLUB MEETING

When: 9:30 a.m.
Where: St. Dunstan's, 6556 Park Ridge Rd., San Carlos
More information: 619-448-3613

SAN DIEGUITO GARDEN CLUB

When: Social 9:30 a.m., Meeting 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Where: 1105 Santa Madera Ct., Solana Beach

More information: sdgc.klnmicro.com

CALIFORNIA RARE FRUIT GROWERS, SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

When: 7:00 p.m.

Where: Room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego

More information: www.crfgsandiego.org

AUGUST 26

CROWN GARDEN CLUB MEETING

When: 9:00 a.m. social, 9:30 a.m. meeting

Where: The Winn Room, Coronado Library, 6400 Orange Ave, Coronado

More information: www.crowngardenclub.org

AUGUST 28

PALOMAR CACTUS AND SUCCULENT SOCIETY MEETING

When: 12:00 Noon

Where: Joslyn Senior Center, 724 N. Broadway, Escondido

More information: 760-741-7553

Gardening Classes

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, PT. LOMA GARDENING CLASS

Learn a variety of gardening tricks every Saturday morning by attending a free class at Walter Andersen Nursery's Pt. Loma Nursery. Please contact the store for a schedule of events.

When: 9:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., every Saturday

Where: Walter Andersen's Pt. Loma,

3642 Enterprise St., San Diego, CA

More information: www.walterandersen.com

WALTER ANDERSEN NURSERY, POWAY GARDENING CLASS

Come join others at Walter Andersen's Poway store for a free, weekly seasonal garden lecture. Please contact the store for a schedule of events.

When: 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., every Saturday

Where: Walter Andersen's Poway,

12755 Danielson Court, Poway, CA

More information: www.walterandersen.com

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN CLASSES

The Water Conservation Garden provides a number of entertaining, information-packed courses covering the most topical gardening topics and presented by skilled and knowledgeable experts. Please contact the Water Conservation Garden for program details and any applicable fees.

When: Contact for program-specific times.

Where: 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, CA

More information: www.thegarden.org, 619-660-0614, x10

Walks, Tours & Garden Events

SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN TOUR

Come and meet up at the Visitor's Center for a weekly tour of the San Diego Botanic Garden formerly known as The Quail Botanical Gardens. No reservations required. Free with admission.

When: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., every Saturday

Where: Quail Botanical Gardens, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA

More information: www.sdbgarden.org

SAN DIEGO BOTANIC GARDEN: CHILDREN'S EVENTS

The Hamilton Children's Garden offers a number of events specially designed to entertain and educate children and their caregivers. Please contact San Diego Botanic Garden for a complete listing of their scheduled events.

When: Ongoing—contact for program-specific times.

Where: San Diego Botanic Garden, 230 Quail Gardens Drive, Encinitas, CA

More information: www.sdbgarden.org

WATER CONSERVATION GARDEN TOUR

Enjoy a docent-led tour of the Water Conservation Garden at Cuyamaca College.

When: Every Saturday at 10:30 a.m. and every Sunday at 1:30 p.m.

Where: Water Conservation Garden, 12122 Cuyamaca College Drive West, El Cajon, CA

More information: www.thegarden.org

CNPS NATIVE PLANT WALK

Join landscape architect and member of the CNPS San Diego Chapter Kay Stewart for a two-hour, easy walk into Tecolote Canyon and back. Along the way you'll study and learn about the plants. This guided walk is free, but may be canceled due to inclement weather or poor trail conditions.

When: 9 a.m. - 11 a.m., first Sunday of the month

Where: Tecolote Canyon Nature Center, 5180 Tecolote Road, San Diego, CA

More information: www.sandiego.gov/park-and-recreation/parks/tecle.shtml, (858) 581-9959

SAN DIEGO CHINESE HISTORICAL MUSEUM AND GARDEN

Come visit the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum's exquisite Asian garden.

When: 10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday; 12 p.m. - 4 p.m., Sunday

Where: San Diego Chinese Historical Museum and Garden, 404 3rd Ave., San Diego, CA

More information: www.sdcchm.org/garden

Balboa Park Events

SAN DIEGO ZOO

Visit the world famous San Diego Zoo for Plant Day and Orchid Odyssey.

When: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., third Friday of each month

Where: San Diego Zoo, 2920 Zoo Drive, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA

More information: www.sandiegozoo.com

SAN DIEGO JAPANESE FRIENDSHIP GARDEN

Enhance your well-being with a visit to this Japanese-style garden. There is a \$4 fee for adults, \$2.50 fee for Seniors (55+), children and military with I.D..

When: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday

Where: San Diego Japanese Friendship Garden, 2215 Pan American Road, Balboa Park,

San Diego, CA

More information: www.niwa.org

BALBOA PARK OFFSHOOT TOURS

Learn about Balboa Park's plants as volunteer horticulturists lead visitors on free, one-hour themed walks. (Inclement weather and low-turnout cancels the tour.)

When: 10 a.m., every Saturday

Where: Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA

More information: www.balboapark.org

BALBOA PARK INTERPRETIVE WALKS

Join volunteer-guides on this free, history-oriented walk through Balboa Park.

When: 1 p.m., every Tuesday

Where: Balboa Park Visitor Center, 1549 El Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego, CA

More Information: www.balboapark.org

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM CANYONEER WALKS

Join trained volunteer guides on a local canyon walks.

There is a \$2 fee.

When: Times vary; check website for specific event details

Where: Locations vary; check website for specific event details

More information: www.sdnhm.org/canyoneers



**Thank You Kensington
Garden Tour Participants**



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Garden Center and Library – Founded in 1907

1650 El Prado #105, San Diego, CA 92101-1684 619-232-5762 Located in Casa del Prado, Room 105, Balboa Park
Under the sponsorship of the Park & Recreation Department, City of San Diego, California

Mission Statement: To promote the knowledge and appreciation of horticulture and floriculture in the San Diego region.

OBJECTIVES

1. To educate and encourage regional gardeners through lectures, classes, publications, scholarships and library resources.
2. To promote the use of regionally appropriate plants and gardening techniques, including natives and Mediterranean climate adapted plants.
3. To encourage, educate, and support floral design activities for personal and public display.
4. To advise and encourage leaders and the community in conservation and beautification of public and private spaces. To network and support plant-interested groups and societies

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February 17

April 21

June 15

October 20

Casa del Prado, Room 101
Balboa Park, San Diego

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Email: membership@sdfloal.org

Sept./Oct. 2010 issue: July 10, 2010 Each affiliate group is entitled to a business-card sized ad at half price. We can accept your designed ad (TIFF, JPEG or PDF files preferred).

In Season

Here are some items that you may find being sold from the stalls at your local Farmers' Market in July and August. (For more information on San Diego County Farmers' Markets, visit www.sdfarmbureau.org.)

July: Avocados, basil, beets, blackberries, boysenberries, cauliflower, celery, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, figs, grapefruit, grapes, green beans, guavas, herbs, lemons, limes, melons, onions, peaches, peppers, plums, potatoes, radishes, raspberries, scallions, summer squash, strawberries, sweet potatoes, tangelos, tomatoes, Valencia oranges and various cut flowers.

August: Apples, avocados, basil, blackberries, boysenberries, cauliflower, celery, corn, cucumbers, eggplant, figs, grapefruit, grapes, green beans, guavas, herbs, lemons, limes, melons, onions, peaches, pears, peppers, plums, potatoes, raspberries, scallions, summer squash, strawberries, sweet potatoes, tangelos, tomatoes, Valencia oranges and various cut flowers.

Free Garden Classes at both locations on Saturday mornings
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Open 8-5, 7 days a week



Green Beans

Contact Us!

Do you have an event, class or meeting that you'd like to let California Garden readers know about? If so, please email sdfloal@gmail.com or Denise Thompson at EarthD@san.r.com with your group's name, the meeting date and time, meeting place, any applicable fees, event program and contact information. You may also submit the above information via regular mail, sent to Calendar Editor, San Diego Floral Association, 1650 El Prado Room 105, San Diego CA 92101. Space is limited, so please get in touch today to ensure inclusion! The deadline for the upcoming Sept./Oct. 2010 issue is July 5, 2010; the deadline for the Nov./Dec. 2010 issue is September 5, 2010.

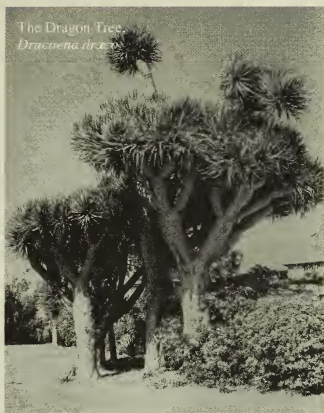
California Garden has published many articles on exotic plants at the San Diego Zoo where landscaping must meet the challenge of simulating animal habitats of all continents and zones. This article looks more generally at the plant collection, introducing a horticulturist with an ambitious agenda for the Zoo's development as a botanical garden.

—Nancy Carol Carter

May-June 1976

A Botanical Garden—with animals

By Stuart MacDonald



On a warm and sunny day in early spring we visited the San Diego Zoo to talk with Mr. Ernest Chew, Zoo Horticulturist. As familiar as the Zoo is to millions of people, the animal collection has so thoroughly dominated public awareness that the plant collection is often overlooked entirely. What has been developing over the last few years is recognition of the Zoo as a full-fledged botanical garden. . . .

In 1970, Mr. Chew came to work for the Society. It has been his goal to create more than just a leafy setting for the animal collection. Though many fine and rare plants have been planted at the Zoo over the years, they were unlabeled and randomly placed. Much of the area was unused and overgrown with common varieties. In addition, there had never been a general plan or any attempts to organize the plantings. Mr. Chew saw this neglect as an opportunity [to establish a plan for collecting and arranging plants at the Zoo].

We asked Mr. Chew to explain the difference between an ordinary garden and a botanical garden. The first step, he said, is “to think of it as a botanical garden.” And hence the plans for development, landscaping, and systematic collecting. In addition, guidelines of the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta suggest that at least 60 per cent of the plants be labeled. An inventory must be made to learn exactly what is growing in the Zoo gardens. An *index seminum*, or index of seeds, must be maintained in order to give other botanical gardens the opportunity to propagate a particular plant, and to preserve endangered species by making their seeds available. A botanical garden is also a place for research, for testing new plants, and for the introduction of promising new species and cultivars to the community. Another function is that of public education. Eventually there will be pamphlets and guides published to acquaint visitors with the wealth of botanical material at the Zoo.

A main concern of Mr. Chew in developing and focusing the Zoological Gardens has been to take advantage of the unusual climate, and also to recognize its limitations. . . . The Zoo visitor sees a landscape that changes from tropical jungle to redwood forest to Australian woodland. Such variety is one of the greatest charms of the Zoo, but it takes planning and restraint to recreate a specific part of the world with plant materials. . . . A large part of the new plant acquisitions has been made possible by donations [from] San Diego Floral Association member clubs. . . . [including] 120 species of palms.

Thursday Family Fun Nights

Every Thursday, to 8 PM

The Garden will be open on Thursday evenings until 8 PM from Memorial Day to Labor Day. We will have activities for children in the Hamilton Children's Garden, entertainment in the Lawn Garden. Here is what we have lined up.

July 1, 6:00 – 7:00 PM

**Ms Smarty-Plants™ and the
Magic Water Show**

July 8, 5:30 – 7:30 PM

Con Alma

July 15, 6:00 – 7:00 pm

Hullabaloo

July 22, 5:30 – 7:30 PM

Peter Sprague Trio

July 29, 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Blue Creek Band

August 5, 5:30 – 7:30 PM

Raggle Taggle Celtic Band

August 12, 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Buck Howdy

August 19, 5:30 – 7:00 PM

**Enchanting Musical Sounds with
New York Harpist, Dr. Marsha Long**

August 26, 6:00 – 7:00 PM

Hullabaloo



Ms Smarty-Plants™ and the
Magic Water show



Hullabaloo



Dr. Marsha Long



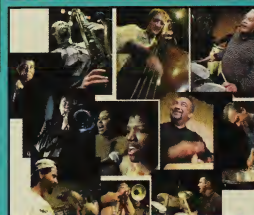
Blue Creek band



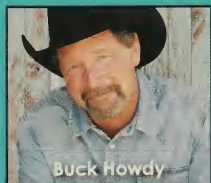
Peter Sprague Trio



Raggle Taggle
Celtic Band



Con Alma



Buck Howdy



**San Diego
BOTANIC
GARDEN**

San Diego Botanic Garden
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Cost: FREE with admission or membership

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